

AGENDA
Inland Wetland Agency
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 4, 2010
Council Chambers, Audrey Beck Building

Call to Order: 7:00 PM

Review of Minutes of Previous Meetings and Action Thereon:

12.07.2009 - Regular Meeting
12.16.2009 - Field Trip
12.21.2009 - Special Meeting

Communications:

Conservation Commission re: W1444(W1437) - Hillel House
 W1445(W1419) - Chernushek
 W1446 - Kielbania

GM monthly business memorandum

Old Business:

Modification Request:

W1445(W1419) - Chernushek - add'l gravel removal and constr. haul road
Tabling is recommended to wait for more detailed information
being prepared for Special Permit application in PZC.

Application:

W1446 - Kielbania - Mansfield City R - SF house in buffer

Regulation Revisions:

W1447 - IWA Regulation Revisions
Pending March 1, 2010 public hearing

New Business:

Renewal Request:

W1448(W1281) - Abramson - 214 Wormwood Hill Rd - office/studio/garage
in buffer

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Other Communications and Bills:

UConn re: DEP application notice - Mirror Lake dredging
Connecticut Wildlife

Adjournment:

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DRAFT MINUTES
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
Regular Meeting
Monday, December 7, 2009
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, P. Plante, B. Pociask, B. Ryan
Alternates present: G. Lewis, Kenneth Rawn, Vera Stearns (7:08 p.m.)
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Alternate Lewis was appointed to act, to fill the vacancy of a former member.

Minutes:

11-2-09 - Hall MOVED, Beal seconded, to approve the 11-2-09 minutes as written. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Plante who disqualified himself.

Communications:

The 11-30-09 Wetlands Agent's Monthly Business report was noted.

Old Business:

None.

New Renewal Request:

W1442 (W1296) - King - Wormwood Hill Rd

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to Donald King (file no. W1442), renewal of wetland permit W1296 for a single family house on property now owned by the applicant and located on the west side of Wormwood Hill Road, as shown on a plan dated 3/02/2005, and as described in other application submissions. This action is based on the application submissions, and consideration of applicable regulations.

Based on the above considerations, the Agency hereby finds this project will not cause significant impact, provided the following conditions are met:

1. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls, as shown on the plans, shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until May 4, 2014), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1443 (W1291) - Abbott - Mulberry Rd

Holt MOVED, Ryan seconded, to grant an Inland Wetlands License under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to Pamela & Steve Abbott (file no. W1443), for renewal of wetland permit W1291 approved at the March 7, 2005 Wetlands Agency meeting, for a single family house on property now owned by this applicant and located on the east side of Wormwood Hill Road on the southeast corner of Mulberry Rd/Wormwood Hill Rd, as shown on a plan dated 2/01/2005, and as described in other application submissions. This action is based on the application submissions, and consideration of applicable regulations.

Based on the above considerations, the Agency hereby finds this project will not cause significant impact, provided the following condition is met:

1. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls, as shown on the plans, shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until March 7, 2015), after which time a new permit application is required. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Modification Request:

W1444(W1237) - Hillel House - sidewalk and parking alternations

Pociask disqualified himself; Rawn was appointed to act. Representing the applicant were Henry M. Zachs of HWZ Contracting, LLC and Director of Hillel, and John Ianni, Professional Soil Scientist. Zachs summarized the modification request to extend the sidewalk. Ianni described the wetlands and brook north of the site, noting no inlet or outlet. The wetland is not a vernal pool and, in his opinion, it is a "left-over" wetland with no function, value, and is not supportive of wildlife.

Goodwin MOVED, Hall seconded, to receive the application submitted by Henry M. Zachs, HWZ Contracting, LLC, B'Nai Brith Hillel Foundation of Connecticut (IWA File #W1444) under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for the extension of sidewalk and parking lot and removal of trees, at 54 North Eagleville Road, on property owned by B'Nai Brith Hillel Foundation of Connecticut, as shown on a map dated 10/16/09 and as described in other application submissions, and to refer said application to the staff and Conservation Commission for review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, to table action on this item until the next meeting, allowing the Agency to revisit the site on a field trip. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

W1445(W1419) - Chernushek - additional gravel removal and construction haul road

Goodwin MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by Henry M. Chernushek (IWA File #W1445) under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for the removal of 750 cubic yards of gravel, at 473 Middle Turnpike, on property owned by the applicant, as shown on a map dated 10/19/09 revised to 12/3/09 and as described in other application submissions, and to refer said application to the staff and Conservation Commission for review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Applications:

W1446 - Kielbania - Mansfield City R - SF house in buffer

Goodwin MOVED, Holt seconded, to receive the application submitted by Bryan and Margaret Kielbania (IWA File #W1446) under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield for the construction of a 3-bedroom single-family residence and septic, at 619 Mansfield City Road, on property owned by the applicants, as shown on a map dated 11/23/09 and as described in other application submissions, and to refer said application to the staff and Conservation Commission for review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Field Trip: Scheduled for Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Reports of Officers and Committees:

Regulation Review Committee: W1447 - IWA Regulation Revisions

The consensus of the Agency was to review the draft regulations at a special meeting on 12/21/09, and then set a public hearing date.

Other Communications and Bills: Noted.

Adjournment: 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine K. Holt, Secretary

MINUTES

MANSFIELD INLAND WETLAND AGENCY/PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FIELD TRIP Special Meeting Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Members present: R. Favretti, M. Beal, K. Holt, B. Ryan
Staff present: G. Meitzler, Wetlands Agent, Assistant Town Engineer
G. Padick, Director of Planning

The field Trip began at 1:05 p.m.

1. HILLEL, PROPERTY, 54 North Eagleville Road IWA File #W1444, PZC File #1289
Members were met by H. Zachs. Site characteristics were observed. No decisions were made.
2. CHERNUSHEK PROPERTY, 473 Middle Turnpike, IWA File #W1419
Members were met by P. Desiato and M. Chernushek. Site and neighborhood characteristics were observed. No decisions were made.
3. KIELBANIA PROPERTY, 619 Mansfield City Road, IWA File #W1446
Members were met by Kenneth J. Pudeler, P.E., and B. Kielbana. Site and neighborhood characteristics were observed. No decisions were made.

The field trip ended at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Holt, Secretary

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DRAFT MINUTES
MANSFIELD INLAND WETLANDS AGENCY
Special Meeting
Monday, December 21, 2009
Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

Members present: R. Favretti (Chairman), M. Beal, J. Goodwin, R. Hall, K. Holt, B. Pociask, B. Ryan
Members absent: P. Plante
Alternates present: G. Lewis, K. Rawn
Alternates absent: V. Stearns
Staff present: G. Meitzler (Wetlands Agent), G. Padick (Director of Planning)

Chairman Favretti called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., noting that at this Special Meeting, the Agency will act on only the items posted on the agenda. Alternate Rawn was appointed to act to fill a vacancy, and alternate Lewis was appointed to act in Plante's absence.

W1444 (W1437)- Hillel House - Sidewalk and parking alterations

Pociask disqualified himself. Gregory Padick, Director of Planning stated that the Conservation Commission meeting minutes, received today, raised no issues with the modification.

Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, to approve a modification of a permit previously issued (file no.W1437) to B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation of Connecticut (file no. W1444) for site-work within regulated areas, at 54 North Eagleville Road. The modifications include shifting the existing parking spaces at the rear of the site and along the driveway so they are not located on adjacent University property; moving the present chain link fence to the west to demark the revised parking area; extending the new sidewalk along the west edge of the University owned drive/walkway from its former end and to the rear of the Hillel property accompanied by grading into a small wetland area on the property, as shown on a map dated October 16, 2009 revised through November 13, 2009, and as described in other applications submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provisions being met:

1. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized;
2. The final plan shall show restoration of the regraded wetland area adjacent to the walkway as a "rain garden" area consistent with the detail on Sheet 2 of the plans.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until December 21, 2014), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment. MOTION PASSED with all in favor except Pociask who disqualified himself.

W1447 - IWA Regulation Revisions

Gregory Padick, Director of Planning, reviewed changes made since the last meeting. Discussion followed.

Holt MOVED, Hall seconded, to receive under Section 12 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield, a revised set of the Wetlands & Watercourses Regulations dated 12/17/09, to set a public hearing date for March 1, 2010, and to refer the revised regulations to:

1. Dennis O'Brien, Town Attorney

2. The Town Council
3. The Conservation Commission
4. The Connecticut Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection

for their review and comment. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine K. Holt, Secretary

Town of Mansfield
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Meeting of 16 December 2009
Conference B, Audrey P. Beck Building
(DRAFT) MINUTES

Members present: Robert Dahn, Quentin Kessel, Scott Lehmann, John Silander. *Members absent:* Peter Drzewiecki, Joan Stevenson, Frank Trainor. *Others present:* Bryan Kielbania.

1. The meeting was **called to order** at 7:35p by Chair Quentin Kessel.
2. The draft **minutes of the 18 November 09 meeting** (as revised, 24 November 09) were approved as written.
3. **IWA referrals.** Unfortunately, no Commission member was able to participate in the IWA Field Trip earlier in the day and the only site maps available at the meeting were those in the packet.

a. **W1446 (Kielbania, Mansfield City Rd).** A single-family house is proposed near the site of the old Swanson house on Mansfield City Rd. just NW of its junction with Spring Hill Rd. At its closest point, the proposed house would be about 80' from an intermittent stream that drains ponds lying to the west. The septic leaching field, not shown on the map, would be where the Swanson house stood, according to Mr. Kielbania. After some discussion, the Commission agreed unanimously on the following comment (motion: Dahn, Silander):

In the absence of adequate maps, the Commission's ability to comment usefully on the wetland impact of the proposed house is hindered. However, it notes that (a) the house would replace one that previously existed and was closer to wetlands, (b) a stone wall between the proposed house and the stream probably provides some wetland protection, and (c) the plan appears to propose what is possible, given the conformation of this lot.

b. **W1444 (Hillel, N. Eagleville Rd).** The applicant proposes to amend W1437 so that parallel parking behind Hillel House is located on its property. Constructing a sidewalk from this parking area to Hillel would require cutting trees in – and filling a portion of – the small wetland remnant to the west. The Commission agreed unanimously on the following comment (motion: Silander, Kessel):

In the Commission's view, the wetland remnant is probably too small and degraded to retain much wetland functionality and replacing it with a rain garden (as suggested in Grant Meitzler's 12/02 memorandum to the IWA) might even improve the situation. The Commission notes that the pipe recently placed under N. Eagleville Rd is not mentioned in the application; it would appreciate information regarding its purpose.

c. **W1445 (Chernushek, Middle Tpk).** The applicant proposes to amend W1419 to permit removal of 750 cubic yards of gravel. Mining the gravel would lower the level of the horse area about 2', exposing a layer of sand that would afford better footing for horses. After reviewing the proposal, the Commission agreed (motion: Kessel, Dahn – Kessel, Lehmann, Silander voting in favor, Dahn abstaining) that:

Removal of 750 cubic yards of gravel from this site is likely to have an impact on wetlands.

4. 2010 meeting schedule. In 2010, the Commission will meet as usual in Conference B of the Beck Building on the third Wednesday of each month.

5. Administrative procedures. In response to Kessel's question to Matt Hart at the November meeting about the status of the Commission's updated administrative procedures, Mr. Hart writes that "certain sections, particularly section 2, ... might be construed to conflict with the Town Council policy on Communicating Town Positions." (letter of 15 Dec 09) This section (under "Officers & their duties") carries over old language permitting the Commission's Chair to "speak publicly or carry on correspondence in the name of the commission" on matters about which the Commission has taken a position. The policy to which Mr. Hart refers requests that "all advisory boards and staff members submit comments or concerns on issues of town-wide importance to the Town Council or Town Manager and not to State or private parties," (Paterson memo, 3 Feb 00). He suggested that the Commission either rewrite section 2 accordingly or ask the Council to reconsider its policy. Meanwhile, he requested that "official comments to any outside party" be routed through the Council.

There was general agreement that (a) the Commission should pursue a policy change and (b) direct communication with the DEP Commissioner is permitted by section 7-131(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes, regardless of any Town policy or ordinance.

6. UConn stormwater management. Kessel's draft comment to DEP Commissioner Marrella on UConn's stormwater management plan, e-mailed to Commission members on 15 Dec 09, was discussed at some length. In the end, Kessel agreed to reorganize the material somewhat and e-mail a revised version to Commission members for approval at the January meeting.

7. Adjourned at 9:45p. Next meeting: Wednesday, 20 Jan 10, 7:30p.

Scott Lehmann, Secretary, 19 December 09.

Memorandum:

December 30, 2009

To: Inland Wetland Agency
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent
Re: Monthly Business

W1419 - Chernushek - hearing on Order

3.10.09: The hearing on the Order remains open and should continue until the permit application under consideration is acted upon.

(The Order was dropped on approval of the application required in the Order.)

4.30.09: Former rye grass seeding is beginning to show green. I spoke with Mr. Chernushek this afternoon who indicated health problems that delayed his starting but indicated he will be working this weekend. I will update on this Monday evening.

5.26.09: A light cover of grass growth has come in. Mr. Chernushek indicates health problems and two related deaths have delayed his start of work since the permit approval was granted. It appears that some light work has started. He has further indicated that he will start a vacation on June 22, 2009 to finish the work.

6.13.09: Work is underway.

6.21.09: Bulldozer work has been completed - finish work remains. The additional silt fencing has been placed along the northerly wetlands crossing, and the additional pipe under the southerly crossing has been installed. Remaining work includes finish grading along edges, spreading stockpiled topsoil, and establishing grass growth.

7.01.09: I spoke with Mr. Chernushek who indicated he expects work to be completed by September 1, 2009. (Site photo attached).

9.03.09: Mr. Chernushek has been working on levelling and grading. The formerly seeded areas have become fairly thick growth surrounding the central wet areas. He has further indicated that with the combination of weather and the slower moving of earth with the payloader compared to the earlier rented bulldozer has led him to contact contractors for earth moving estimates which have not yet been received. The site is not yet finished but has remained quite stable.

9.12.09: I met with Mr. Chernushek today and discussed again what his plans are for stabilizing this work site.

10.01.09: Mr. Chernushek indicated he has not heard back from the contractor he had spoken with about removing material, and is in progress of contacting others. In discussion is removal of material from the site either within the 100 cubic yard limit or obtaining a permit for such removal.

10.28.09: Mr. Chernushek has indicated he has made arrangements with DeSiato Sand & Gravel to remove 750 cubic yards of material. Staff is in the process of clarifying permit requirements.

11.30.09: Packet of information representing submissions by Mr. Chernushek, Mr. DeSiato and myself is in this agenda packet as Mr. Chernushek's request for modification.

12.29.09: Preparation of required information for PZC special permit application is in progress. Tabling any action until the February 1, 2010 meeting is recommended.

Mansfield Auto Parts - Route 32

- 12.08.08: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 1.16.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 2.24.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 3.06.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 4.14.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 5.11.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 6.10.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 7.16.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 8.12.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 9.14.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 10.27.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 11.30.09: Inspection - no vehicles are within 25' of wetlands.
- 12.28.09: There are two cars that need to be moved. Mr. Bednarczyk indicates their payloader is down for repairs and the cars will be moved as soon as it is repaired.

December 29, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Inland Wetland Agency
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent
Re: W1445/W1419 - Chernushek - Modification request

The applicant is in the progress of preparing more information for a required Special Permit application before the PZC. This should result in information which will be of interest for review of wetlands impacts as well.

Tabling action on this application until the February 1, meeting is recommended. Beyond the February 1, 2010 IWA meeting, an extension of time will be needed.

It is also appropriate to consider the need for a public hearing on the wetlands application combined with a PZC public hearing, if statutory limits time permit. For the wetlands application, a public hearing would have to start at the February 1, 2010 meeting. A later hearing will require an extension of time, or withdrawal and resubmission.

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Memorandum:

December 30, 2009

To: Inland Wetland Agency
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent
Re: W1446 - Kielbania - Mansfield City R - SF house in buffer

plan reference: dated 11.23.2009, latest rev.date 12.22.2009

Please note the revised date on this plan.

This application is for a new 3 bedroom house on the former Swanson property. Earlier, work had been started to restore the old house on the property. The condition of the old house and the work needed led to its removal rather than restoration.

The wetlands involved here are the Kidder Brook reaches which are in the upper range of the Sawmill Brook drainage area. This flows to the Natchaug River and is not part of the Windham Waterworks Watershed. The Sawmill Brook and its tributaries is one of the larger drainage areas on Mansfield. It is a year round flowing brook in this location. Larger wetland areas are located upstream. These areas will not be impacted by this proposal given acceptable sediment and erosion protection being in place. This work is near a section of the brook (and its adjacent wetland areas) that can be described as primarily a conductance section of the brook system. Shortly upstream and away from this work, a large manmade pond and wide marshy wetlands area serve quite a different function. These larger areas definitely qualify as fish areas which limits their function as vernal pool breeding areas. In any case this pond and marsh are 100 and 200 feet away respectively, and are separated from this work by the uphill slopes in between.

I think potential impacts would be to the smaller wetlands and larger brook immediately adjacent to this proposed construction. Potential impact appears to me to be limited to short term construction impacts with the proposed silt fence barrier and the stone wall barrier along most of the site for this house.

The present proposal for a single family house has moved the house away from wetlands which were near the old house. The closest point to wetlands for the new house is about 90'. The septic system and reserve have been kept 60' away from wetlands to meet the health code requirement for setback.

Separating Distances from wetlands	
item:	
house	90'
septic	50'
well	150+'
driveway	70' *
reserve	57'
footing drain	53'

* this distance is for the new house drive. The existing farm road accesses are shown on the map and are partially on this

lot and the other remaining parcel this lot was cut from.

An existing stone wall runs along the boundary area of the wetlands at the edge of the yard/lawn areas. The active construction areas are protected with silt fencing around the downhill side of the work areas and the stockpile area. The stone wall should add additional protection.

On the field trip we noted what appeared to be a new driveway crossing wetlands on this site. The new plan noted above has added this drive from the Kielbania house on Browns Road to this new site and then to the adjacent farming parcel. This interior drive is an old farm road that has been in use as a route for farm equipment. This interior route is much safer for moving equipment than using Browns Rd and Mansfield city Rd. Recent site work led to improving this road including its brook crossing and grading and seeding along the edges. I have walked the roadway and noting its use of stone wall openings of great age I am assured this is not a new roadway. It is a very understandable farm road that has had some very good maintenance work done recently.

Wetlands Draft Approval Motion for:

W1446 - Bryan F. & Margaret O. Kielbania

_____ moves and _____ seconds, to grant an Inland Wetlands License pursuant to Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to Bryan F. & Margaret O. Kielbania (file no. W1446), for construction of a 3 bedroom single family house and appurtenant site work within regulated areas at 619 Mansfield City Road, as shown on a map dated 11.23.2009, revised through December 22, 2009, and as described in other application submissions.

This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands, and is conditioned upon the following provision being met:

1. Erosion and sedimentation controls shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.

This approval is valid for a period of five years (until January 4, 2014), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetlands Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment.

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December 30, 2009

Memorandum:

To: Inland Wetland Agency
From: Grant Meitzler, Inland Wetland Agent
Re: New Business for the January 4, 2010 meeting

Renewal Request:

In Section 7.9 B:

"Any such permit shall be renewed upon request of the permit holder unless the Agency finds that there has been a substantial change in circumstances which requires a new permit application or an enforcement action has been undertaken with regard to the regulated activity for which the permit was issued provided no permit may be valid for more than ten years."

W1448(W1281) - Abramson - office/studio/garage building
214 Wormwood Hill Rd

	yes	no
	-----	-----
fee paid	x	
certified receipts		n.a.
map dated	2.07.2005	

This is a request for renewal of permit W1281 issued 2.07.2005.
A copy of the original approval letter is in this packet. No change to the plan is anticipated at this time. This is the corner lot at the northeast corner of the Mulberry Rd & Wormwood Hill intersection.

We have the option of either acting on this at the Monday meeting or tabling action for a field trip visit to the site.

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W1448
W1281

December 17, 2009

TO: Town of Mansfield

With regard to the enclosed approval license for the building of an office/studio/garage building, I am requesting an extension of time for this proposal, for another five year period.

I enclose my check for the fee for this extension.

pd \$50-
HJM

Thank you.

Harold J. Abramson
214 Wormwood Hill Road
Mansfield Center,
Connecticut 06250



TOWN OF MANSFIELD
INLAND WETLAND AGENCY

19976764
AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
STORRS, CONNECTICUT 06268
(203) 429-3334

February 14, 2005

Carol and Harold Abramson
214 Wormwood Hill Road
Mansfield, Connecticut 06250

Re: Mansfield Wetlands License for studio/garage, IWA file W1281

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Abramson:

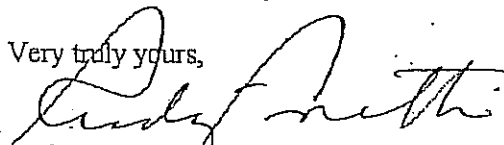
2005
At a regular meeting held on February 7, 2003, the Mansfield Inland Wetland Agency adopted the following motion:

"to grant an Inland Wetlands License under Section 5 of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to Hal and Carol Abramson (file W1281) for an office/studio building accessory to an-existing home on property owned by the applicants at 214 Wormwood Hill Road, as shown on a revised undated map received at the 2/7/05 meeting. This action is based on a finding of no anticipated significant impact on the wetlands and is conditioned upon the following provisions being met:

1. Appropriate sediment and erosion controls shall be in place prior to construction; the applicant shall call the Wetlands Agent for approval of placement before proceeding further;
2. Water service to the building shall be limited to that for a heating system and shall not include interior plumbing or a septic system;
3. Roof drainage is to be contained with gutters and receiving pipes directing flow away from the wetlands;
4. No excavated material is to be placed in the adjacent wetlands;
5. The construction area is to be surrounded with a double row of silt fence backed with a ½ to ¾-inch peastone barrier placed between the rows of the silt fencing;
6. This approval is valid for a period of five years (until 2/7/10), unless additional time is requested by the applicant and granted by the Inland Wetland Agency. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this agency for further review and comment."

If you have any questions regarding this action, you may contact Wetlands Agent Grant Meitzler at 860-429-3334. This letter constitutes your License.

Very truly yours,


Rudy J. Favretti, Chairman
Mansfield Inland Wetland Agency

Wetlands Draft Approval Motion for:

W1448 - Harold J. Abramson
Request for Renewal of W1281

_____ moves and _____ seconds, to approve a request for renewal of an Inland Wetlands License under Section 7.9 B. of the Wetlands and Watercourses Regulations of the Town of Mansfield to **Harold J. Abramson** for a wetland permit W1281 originally issued at the February 7, 2005 Inland Wetlands Agency meeting, for an office/studio/garage building on property now owned by the applicant and located at 214 Wormwood Hill Road on the northeast corner of the Mulberry R & Wormwood Hill Rd intersection, as shown on a plan dated 2/07/2005, and as described in other application submissions. This action is based on the application submissions, and consideration of applicable regulations.

Based on the above considerations, the Agency renews this permit, provided the following conditions are met:

1. Appropriate erosion and sedimentation controls, as shown on the plans, shall be in place prior to construction and maintained during construction and removed when disturbed areas are completely stabilized.
2. All conditions of the previous approval shall remain in effect, and a copy of the original approval for application W1281 shall be a part of this condition.

This renewal is valid for an additional period of five years (until 2/07/2015), after which time a new permit application is required. The applicant shall notify the Wetlands Agent before any work begins, and all work shall be completed within one year. Any extension of the activity period shall come before this Agency for further review and comment.



University of Connecticut
*Office of the Vice President and
Chief Operating Officer*

Office of Environmental Policy

December 22, 2009

Gregory Padick
Director of Planning
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268

RE: Public Notice of CT DEP Permit Applications for Proposed Activities at Mirror Lake

Dear Mr. Padick:

Enclosed please find a copy of two public notices published in the Hartford Courant for permit applications submitted to CT DEP for proposed dredging and dam repairs at UConn's Mirror Lake. We are required to provide these notices to Mansfield's chief elected official in accordance with CGS 22a-6g. Please forward the notices to the Mayor's office.

UConn has applied for permits from DEP Inland Water Resources Division for improvements that will affect wetlands and the Mirror Lake impoundment. UConn has also applied for a permit for wastewater discharges because the dredged sediments will dewater as a discharge back to the lake. These public notices appeared in the Hartford Courant on December 18, 2009.

Also attached is a copy of the letter sent to the Windham Waterworks and the Eastern Highlands Health District, notifying them of the permit applications in accordance with CGS 22a-42f.

Copies of the permit applications are certainly available upon request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jason Coite
Environmental Compliance Analyst

An Equal Opportunity Employer

31 LeDoyt Road Unit 3055
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-3055

Telephone: (860) 486-5446
Facsimile: (860) 486-5477
web: www.ecohusky.uconn.edu



The Hartford Courant.

A TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

Affidavit of Publication

State of Connecticut

Friday, December 18, 2009

County of Hartford

I, Joy Shroyer, do solemnly swear that I am Financial Operations Assistant of the Hartford Courant, printed and published daily, in the state of Connecticut and that from my own personal knowledge and reference to the files of said publication the advertisement of Public Notice was inserted in the regular edition.

On dates as follows: 12/18/2009

In the amount of \$452.17

ST OF CT UNIV OF CT/PLANT AC

release 280

700370

Full Run

Financial Operations Assistant
Joy Shroyer

Subscribed and sworn to before me on December 18, 2009

Notary Public

WILLIAM B. McDONALD
NOTARY PUBLIC, CONNECTICUT
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES FEB. 28, 2014

①
Notice of Permit Application
(Town(s): MANSFIELD)

Notice is hereby given that the University of Connecticut (the Applicant) of 31 LeDoye Road, Storrs, CT 06269-3055 has submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection an application under Connecticut General Statutes, Sections 22a-391 (INLAND WETLANDS) and 22a-403 (DAM CONSTRUCTION) for a permit to construct and conduct an activity in a wetland or watercourse: 22a-403: repair a dam and alter a dam. Specifically, the applicant proposes to hydraulically dredge 17,100 cubic yards of accumulated sediments from Mirror Lake and make minor repairs and modifications to the lake. The proposed activity will take place at Mirror Lake located immediately northwest of the intersection of Storrs Road (CT Route 195) with Mansfield Road on the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus. The proposed activity will potentially affect Mirror Lake which discharges to Roberts Brook, a tributary to the Fenton River.

Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from: Nathaniel Aral, P.E., Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc., 256 N. Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028, Phone (413) 525-3822.

The application is available for inspection at the Department of Environmental Protection, Inland Water Resources Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, Telephone (860) 424-3015, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.

②
Notice of Permit Application
(Town(s): MANSFIELD)

Notice is hereby given that the University of Connecticut (the Applicant) of 31 LeDoye Road, Storrs, CT 06269-3055 has submitted to the Department of Environmental Protection an application under section 22a-403 of that Connecticut General Statutes for a permit to install, create, originate or maintain a discharge of water, substance, or material to the waters of the state.

Specifically, the applicant proposes to hydraulically dredge 17,100 cubic yards of accumulated sediments from Mirror Lake. The proposed activity will take place at Mirror Lake located immediately northwest of the intersection of Storrs Road (CT Route 195) with Mansfield Road on the University of Connecticut Storrs Campus. The proposed activity will potentially affect Mirror Lake which discharges to Roberts Brook, a tributary to the Fenton River.

Interested persons may obtain copies of the application from: Nathaniel Aral, P.E., Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc., 256 N. Main Street, East Longmeadow, MA 01028, Phone (413) 525-3822.

The application is available for inspection at the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Materials Management and Compliance, Assurance, Permitting, and Enforcement, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127, (860) 424-3015, from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday.



**Baystate
Environmental
Consultants
Inc.**
A GZA Company

Civil Engineers
Environmental Scientists
Planners

296 North Main Street
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
Tel (413) 525-3822
Fax (413) 525-8348

120 Mountain Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Tel (860) 286-8900
Fax (860) 243-9055

*GZA Offices in Connecticut, Massachusetts,
Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New
York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio,
Vermont, Wisconsin*

*www.b-e-c.com
www.gza.com*

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

December 11, 2009

Superintendent
Windham Water Works
174 Storrs Road
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

RE: Notice of Proposed Mirror Lake Dredging
University of Connecticut – Storrs Campus

Dear Superintendent:

On behalf of our client, the University of Connecticut, Baystate Environmental Consultants, Inc., a GZA Company, is providing the attached Notice to your office of the Mirror Lake Dredging project, UConn's Storrs campus. This Notice is made pursuant to the requirements at Public Act 89-301:

The work involves the hydraulic dredging of approximately 17,100 cubic yards of accumulated sediments from within Mirror Lake, on-site dewatering of the sediments with return of the filtrate to Mirror Lake, and disposal of the dewatered sediments at a licensed solid waste facility.

Please note that, since this is a State of Connecticut project, the wetlands permit for the Mirror Lake Dredging must be obtained directly from the CTDEP; thus, no permit application has been made to the Mansfield Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. The CTDEP application materials are being filed concurrently with this Notice to the Windham Water Works, and can be made available upon request.

Sincerely,
BEC

Nathaniel Y. Arai, P.E.
Project Engineer

attachment

Cc: Jason M. Coite – UConn
Eastern Highlands Health District., Attn. Robert Miller, Director.

Notification to the Windham Water Works Of Application for a Project Within the

P.A. 89-301 "An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Water Lands Task Force and Concerning Water Diversions and Notification to Water Companies of the Storage of Hazardous Materials," requires applicants to provide a water company written notice of an application, petition, request or plan if the proposed project is located within the watershed of the wetland, zoning or planning and zoning commissions and zoning boards of appeal. **The applicant must mail such notice within seven (7) days of the date of the application, by certified mail, return receipt requested.** This form is furnished by the Windham Water Works to such boards and commissions in its watershed to be used by applicants to meet this requirement. Other forms or letters, as approved by each commission, may be used, but must contain the same information. To determine if a project is within the Willimantic Reservoir Drinking Water Supply Watershed, please consult the map(s) on file with the Commission or Town Clerk. **Failure of an applicant to comply with this law may be grounds for a legal appeal of a decision rendered on the application due to a procedural error. Do not jeopardize your application, send your notification!**

Application Submitted to: ☒ Inland Wetlands Commission (CT DEP only)
(Check one or more) ☐ Zoning Commission
☐ Planning & Zoning Commission
☐ Zoning Board of Appeals

Project is in the Town(s) of: (Check one or more)

<input type="checkbox"/> Ashford	<input type="checkbox"/> Pomfret
<input type="checkbox"/> Chaplin	<input type="checkbox"/> Union
<input type="checkbox"/> Eastford	<input type="checkbox"/> Willington
<input type="checkbox"/> Hampton	<input type="checkbox"/> Windham
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mansfield	<input type="checkbox"/> Woodstock

Type of Application: ☐ Zone Change ☐ Special Exception/Permit
 ☐ Subdivision ☐ Other: (Describe) _____
 ☐ Variance _____

Name & Address of Applicant University of Connecticut
31 LeDoyt Road; Storrs, CT 06269-3055

Project Street Location/Nearest Utility Pole Mirror Lake, Storrs Campus, near intersection of Storrs Road (Rte.195) and Mansfield Road

Contact Person Mr. Jason M. Coite Phone No. 860-486-9305

Brief description of application: (For example: 30 lot subdivision of single family homes on 60,000 square foot lots with on-site septic systems and wells in North Windham)

Dredging of Mirror Lake

Public Hearing Date: N/A Commission Meeting Date N/A

Enclose a copy of the application submitted to the Town and a full set of project plans. Mail this completed form or substitute by certified mail, return receipt request to:

Windham Water Works – Superintendent
174 Storrs Road
Mansfield Center, CT 06250

COVER STORY: DECEMBER 2009

Connecticut Wildlife



State-land Habitat Projects Continue Despite Cuts to WHIP

Written by Paul Rothbart, State Lands Management Program

The 2009 field season for the Wildlife Division's State Lands Management Program has been challenging but extremely productive and rewarding. The goals of the program are to create the habitat diversity required to maintain stable, healthy, and diverse wildlife populations throughout Connecticut and to maintain and enhance the properties through boundary marking, proper signage, and creating public access for improved wildlife-based recreational opportunities.

During the past season, management activities continued to emphasize early successional habitats, which have been identified in Connecticut's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy as priority habitat types in need of conservation and active management to assure abundant and diverse wildlife populations. Additionally, this need and associated management have been brought to the forefront through the Wildlife Division's participation with the Connecticut Woodcock Council and a regional initiative to restore areas essential for the New England cottontail. These declining habitats (i.e., young forests, old fields, grasslands) are critical to a large array of species, including American woodcock, New England cottontail, ruffed grouse, indigo bunting, blue-winged warbler, northern oriole, rufous-sided towhee, wild turkey, bluebird, American goldfinch, deer, bats, bobolink, savannah sparrow, and eastern meadowlark.

Over the past decade, the principle funding source for state land habitat activities has been through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP). This valuable program was the first Farm Bill conservation program specifically developed to address wildlife resource needs on non-federal lands. Through 2008, the Wildlife Division had received \$1,752,288 via WHIP grants, resulting in the development of 81 contracts encompassing 1,868.65 acres. Projects have included warm and cool season grass establishment, riparian native tree and shrub plantings, water control structure replacement/enhance-



Tree harvesting operations at Roraback WMA are part of an early successional habitat initiative funded in partnership with the Connecticut Woodcock Council, Wildlife Management Institute, and Beardsley Zoo.

ments, aspen/young forest regeneration, and old field enhancement/non-native plant management targeting invasive species, such as autumn olive, multi-flora rose, asiatic bittersweet, tartarian honeysuckle, and tree-of-heaven. Management practices included brush mowing, heavy-duty brush and tree removal with specialized equipment (i.e., brontosaurus, fecon mower, and feller buncher), prescribed burning, no-till fluffy grassland seedings, and selective herbiciding.

Unfortunately, commencing in 2009, the state, along with municipal governmental entities, are no longer eligible for funding via WHIP. Although this is obviously a tremendous blow to the Wildlife Division's current funding opportunities, contracts are still in place for several years into the future, which will provide continued management while new partnerships and opportunities to conduct critical habitat practices are developed.



State Land Projects - April to September 2009

Early Successional Stage Forest Habitat Creation	Total: 24 acres	Native Warm Season Grass Planting	Total: 12 acres
Soligohesi WMA	Scotland	Tunxis State Forest	Harland
Roraback WMA	Harwinton	Machinoodus State Park	East Haddam
Bear Hill WMA	Bozrah		
Herbicide Treatment of Non-native Invasive Plants	Total: 270 acres	Brush Mowing of Old Fields/Grasslands	Total: 250 acres
Tunxis State Forest	Harland	Tunxis State Forest	Harland
Mad River Flood Control Area	Winchester	Centennial State Forest	Easton, Weston, Redding
Roraback WMA	Harwinton	Roraback WMA	Harwinton
Quinnipiac River State Park	North Haven	Flaherty Management Area	East Windsor
West Rock State Park	New Haven	Higginum Meadows WMA	Haddam
Simsbury WMA	Simsbury	Bear Hill WMA	Bozrah
Flaherty Management Area	East Windsor	Mad River Flood Control Area	Winchester
Nipmuck State Forest	Union	Skill Mountain WMA	Sharon
Machinoodus State Park	East Haddam	Goshen WMA	Goshen
Talbot WMA	Scotland	Simsbury WMA	Simsbury
Cockaponset State Forest	Haddam		
Pachaug State Forest	Voluntown	Prescribed Burning	Total: 48 acres
Barn Island WMA	Stonington	Pease Brook WMA	Lebanon
Pease Brook WMA	Lebanon	Verkades State Park	Waterford
Bear Hill WMA	Bozrah	Higginum Meadows WMA	Haddam

What's the Story Behind the Ear Tags on Bears?

Written by Paul Rego, Furbearer Program

If you have seen a bear in Connecticut, particularly in the northwest portion of the state, there is a chance that you also may have noticed tags on its ears. About 2,700 bear sighting reports were received by the Wildlife Division in 2008 and, in more than one fifth of those, the reporter noticed ear tags on the bear.

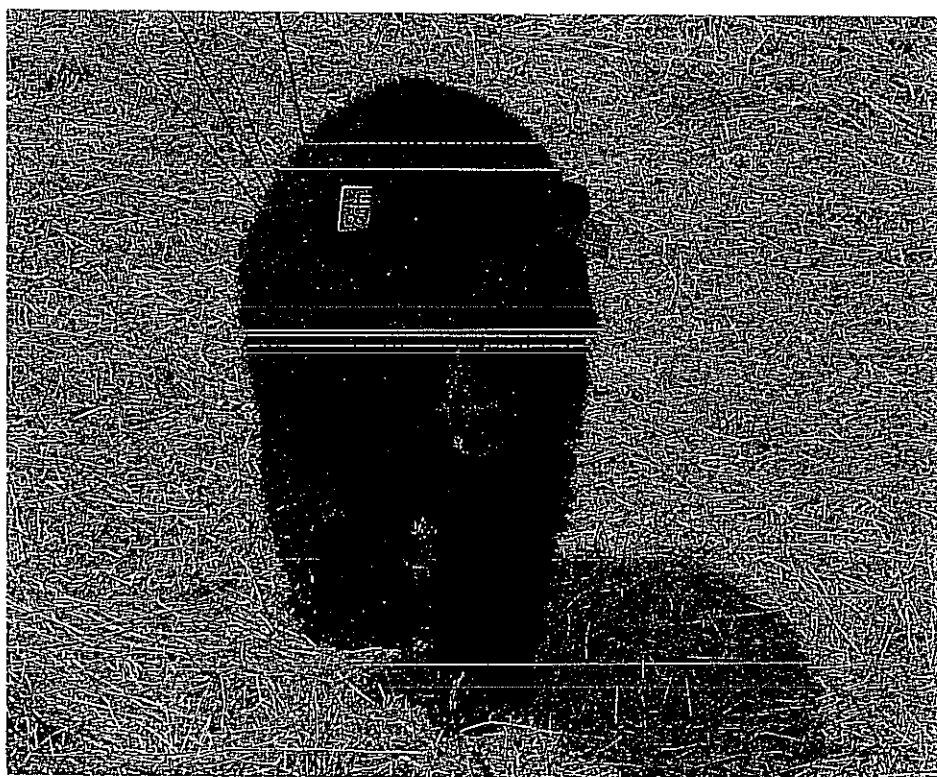
DEP WILDLIFE DIVISION FILE PHOTO



A biologist uses special pliers to attach ear tags to a drugged bear.

A common misconception is that if a bear is tagged, it must have been a problem bear, and a bear with two tags (one in each ear) was caught on two different occasions because it was causing problems.

In reality, every bear receives a tag in each ear the first time it is handled. Most tagged Connecticut bears were not caught as problem bears but, rather, as part of a project researching the state's population. Bears removed from urban areas and those caught at problem sights also are tagged.



Sighting reports with details on the unique tag numbers and/or letters help document the movements of bears.

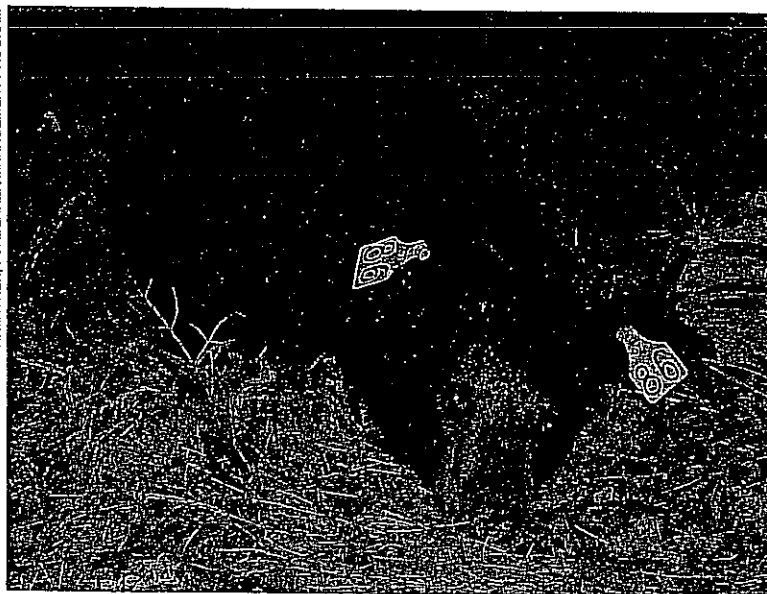
Bears observed with only one tag have somehow lost a tag, possibly due to fighting with another bear or snagging it on brush. Rarely, a bear may lose both tags and, therefore, appear as if it had never been handled. Large male bears are more likely to lose tags as compared to females and smaller males.

Boars probably do more fighting and bull their way through thicker brush.

The tag color used to mark the bears is changed each year. For example, a bear with red tags was handled in 2007, one with yellow tags was handled in 2008 and one with white tags was handled in 2009. Each of the colored tags has a two digit number and/or letter code. The second digit indicates the year, while the first indicates the sequence in which it was caught ("1" through "9" then "A" through "Z"). Thus a bear with ear tag "2-9" would be the second bear handled in 2009, and a tag with "B-8" would be the eleventh bear handled in 2008.

Ear tags help biologists track bear movements and dispersal. Bears tagged in Connecticut have traveled as far as Vermont. Bears tagged in New York, Massachusetts, and even Pennsylvania have shown up in Connecticut. The ramblings of individual bears through multiple towns have been revealed via sightings with tag information. Tags also can reveal whether individual bears have a propensity for problem behavior. Approximately 150 bears have been tagged in Connecticut since 2001. Research bears have been caught and tagged in Barkhamsted, Hartland, Colebrook, New Hartford, and Burlington.

A. MACHEN, FURBEARER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



In 2006, both female and male bears were marked with pink ear tags. This young sow also was fitted with a radio collar so that biologists could track her movements and find her winter den site.



One Bird in Hand Tells More than Two Singing in the Bush

Written by Shannon Kearney-McGee, Bird Program

For the second season, Wildlife Division staff spent spring nights chasing the phantom call of the whip-poor-will in an effort to capture the noisy little singers. The whip-poor-will is easily identified by its distinctive call, heard most often at dusk or dawn, along woodland edges – “*whip-poor-will!*” There are very few, however, who can claim to have ever seen this phantom caller.

Whip-poor-wills are elusive ground nesting birds that are often heard and not seen. Unlike most songbirds, they are active only at night, hiding by day among the branches of trees or nesting, perfectly camouflaged, in leaf litter on the forest floor. In Connecticut, whip-poor-wills are a state species of special concern, and, regionally, they have been disappearing from the New England landscape. In an effort to understand the species' decline and how remaining habitat can be managed, the Division tracked individual birds with the use of radio telemetry equipment to determine which habitat features are most important for Connecticut's breeding whip-poor-wills.

To assess which management activities might be most beneficial for the birds, staff focused on a study site where there were a variety of different management practices, including burning, cutting, and powerline right-of-way clearing, as well as areas with natural wind and fire disturbance.

Calling birds were located in late April and early May. Mist nets for capturing whip-poor-wills were set up between mid-May and the end of June. Two birds, one male and one female, were captured and fitted with radios. Both birds were found in managed shrubland habitat. The female was adjacent to an eight- to nine-year-old clearcut and the male was captured in a forest stand that had undergone a final shelterwood cut in 2007. Clearcuts of approximately eight to nine years of age often consist of sapling size trees that are the same age. The structure created by these young trees resembles an early successional shrubland. The final shelterwood cut had a mixture of upland hardwood species that were even-aged saplings, again resulting in an early successional shrubland. The shrubby habitat created by these forest cuts is typical of areas statewide where whip-poor-wills are often heard singing, and it is not a

surprise that the birds were captured from these managed areas.

The two whip-poor-wills with radio transmitters were tracked by staff and volunteers during their night-time activity periods. Night-time activities included foraging for invertebrates, singing, or incubating eggs and young. The radio transmitter allowed the confirmation of the female's nesting location. This female, however, did not move much, and no foraging range information was collected from her movements.

The male bird was more active at night, allowing for the determination of 22 foraging locations. The foraging home range for the male was then calculated. Surprisingly, the male did not seem to forage in the same area where it

of vegetation species, sandier soils, and increased overstory cover. These differences may result in a preferred invertebrate community from which to forage, or increased protection from predation while foraging. This more natural foraging habitat also is rare in Connecticut and may help explain why whip-poor-wills are uncommon.

This disparity between the singing location and the foraging location for a male whip-poor-will reinforces radio tracking research results from Massachusetts, where a similar contrast between singing and foraging habitat was found on the Massachusetts Military Reservation on Cape Cod. Foraging whip-poor-

continued on page 7



Whip-poor-wills are elusive ground nesting birds that are often heard and not seen. Unlike most songbirds, they are active only at night, hiding by day among the branches of trees or nesting, perfectly camouflaged, in leaf litter on the forest floor.

was heard singing. The foraging range was concentrated in mature old growth, consisting primarily of chestnut oak. This area had steep and rugged terrain with exposure to natural disturbances, such as wind and other weather elements. The chestnut oak habitat also was more reminiscent of pitch pine/scrub oak communities in Cape Cod and New Jersey where whip-poor-wills are more numerous. This type of habitat is quite different from the managed shrubland areas with a variety

This project was completed with funds from the State Wildlife Grants Program and with the assistance of the following staff and volunteers: Jeremy Leifert, Patrick Bukowski, Shannon Kearney, Christina Kocer, Patrick Deane, Sarah Van de Berg, Laura Saucier, Nicki Hall, Larry Fischer, Katelyn Hope, Stephen Pelletier, Nicole Azze, Corrie Folsom, Laurie Fortin, Jen Pacelli, Rebecca Schwart, and the University of Connecticut Summer Ornithology Course of 2009.



High-tech Moose Traversing Connecticut

Written by Andrew LaBonte, Deer Program



Deer Program Resource Assistant Bill Embacher with the 700-pound bull moose captured in Southbury and relocated to northwestern Connecticut in September 2009.

Since initially capturing two moose during winter 2009 as part of a moose research project, Wildlife Division staff members have been tracking moose movements on a weekly basis. The technological advances in tracking equipment (GPS collars) have allowed the Division to use satellites to record the locations of the moose every three hours. The GPS devices placed on the Connecticut moose search for satellites and download location, elevation, and temperature data, and emit a VHF signal on specific days of the week. The VHF signal allows an individual with a hand-held receiver and antenna to locate the animal in the field if

they are in close proximity (approximately 2 miles line-of-sight). Once the animal is located, a hand-held computer with a special antenna can be used to download the data from the collar to the computer, but only at a distance of 300 yards or less. Moose, with home ranges that can exceed 10 square miles, can be difficult to locate in the hilly terrain of northwestern Connecticut.

Tracking the High-tech Moose

The adult bull moose (#2) captured in the Hartland/Barkhamsted area has ventured on several occasions into Massachusetts for a day or two, but has never

Anyone who observes a moose in urban areas of Connecticut should contact the Division's Franklin Wildlife office at 860-642-7239 or Sessions Woods office at 860-675-8130 during office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM), or DEP Emergency Dispatch (860-434-3333) after hours. All other observations can be reported on the DEP website at www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife.

traveled south of the area where it was originally captured. Since January 2009, a total of 705 GPS locations have been recorded. The acquisition rate of the GPS was low (<50%) when leaves were on the trees, but it is expected to increase now that the leaves have dropped from the trees.

In late September and early October, when moose begin to rut, two attempts were made to locate the bull and determine if he was courting a cow. On October 2, the bull was observed bedded with a large cow (approximately 1,000 pounds, based on the size of the bull) and a calf. Biologists were able to get within close range of the calf, but were unable to get near enough to the cow to capture it as well. Another attempt was made to locate the bull on October 5. Unexpectedly, while searching for the collared bull, another small, rogue bull passed close by, but did not provide an opportunity for capture.

The female calf moose captured in March was monitored up until late May. The calf stayed in the general area where she was captured. However, in late May, her VHF signal was no longer audible. Based on a report received through the DEP website, a resident on the Connecticut/Massachusetts border observed the collared calf later that week heading north. Several attempts were made throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts to locate the collared calf;

however, her whereabouts at this time are unknown.

Capturing a Wayward Moose

On September 9, 2009, a moose sighting was received via a phone call regarding a young bull on Route 8 near the water treatment plant in Winsted. Six additional website reports and a few phone calls about a young bull came in over the next two weeks from Watertown and Middlebury. Reported sightings indicated the moose was near Interstate 84. DEP staff was prepared to immobilize the moose at the earliest opportunity to prevent the possibility of a moose-vehicle collision. On September 25, the moose was observed in an office park, 150 yards north of Interstate 84 in Southbury. DEP Environmental Conservation Police officers arrived on the scene and warned motorists and onlookers of the potential concerns regarding the moose. The DEP Tranquilization Team was fortunate to immobilize the moose in a safe location. The Team and several local police officers carried the bull from the woods to the back of a pick-truck where it was prepared for transport. Coordinated efforts between local police, ENCON police, and Wildlife Division staff were critical to the successful relocation of this animal.

This five-point bull, which had traveled over 20 miles in roughly five days, was estimated to weigh about 700 pounds, based on body measurements. It was fitted with a GPS collar and ear tags (#6). The moose was transported to northern Connecticut. Since its relocation, the moose's whereabouts have been unknown. However, in early November, a forester found the GPS collar while working in Grandville, Massachusetts, just over the Connecticut border. The collar appeared to have malfunctioned and, unfortunately, the information stored in the collar cannot be accessed until it is returned to the manufacturer.

During late September/early October, the Department received two reports of another bull in Washington. Two days later, a motorist reported hitting the

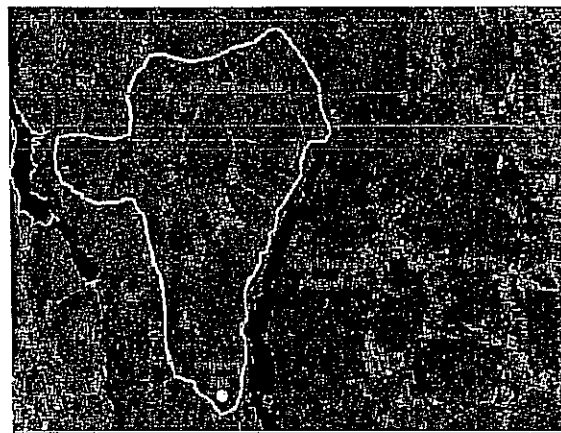
moose on Interstate 84 on the Danbury/Bethel line. Neither the motorist nor the moose suffered any injuries. The moose continued to travel further into Bethel that day, but surprisingly turned northward back across Interstate 84 that evening. The following morning, the moose was observed heading north through Southbury, Roxbury, and Woodbury. It is noteworthy that this is the first documentation in Connecticut of a dispersing moose changing its direction of travel. Typically, dispersing moose continue to travel southward until they are either struck by a motor vehicle or captured and relocated.

It is expected that as Connecticut's moose population continues to increase, more moose will find their way into urban areas and require intervention. The capture, collaring, and monitoring of moose in Connecticut is an ongoing project between the Department, University of Connecticut, and the Northeast Wildlife Damage Management Cooperative, with additional assistance from the Metropolitan District Commission. This project should help us better understand moose movements, habitat use, and survival of Connecticut moose.

Anyone who observes a moose in urban areas of Connecticut should contact



A bull moose captured in Southbury in September 2009 browses on vegetation after being relocated to northwestern Connecticut. The animal was marked with a radio collar and ear tags before it was released.



This map depicts the area in northwestern Connecticut and part of Massachusetts in which bull moose #2 traveled after being captured in January 2009 along the Barkhamsted Reservoir.

the Division's Franklin Wildlife office at 860-642-7239 or Sessions Woods office at 860-675-8130 during office hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM-4:30 PM), or DEP Emergency Dispatch (860-434-3333) after hours. All other observations can be reported on the DEP website at www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife.



Whip-poor-will Project

continued from page 5

wills in Massachusetts also used mature forests. The results of the Massachusetts study combined with Connecticut's also demonstrate that radio tracking was vital

for the discovery that the bird was using mature forest habitat for foraging as opposed to the shrublands in which it sang. As a result of this research, management recommendations for this species will now consider the structure of the surrounding forest, in combination with

shrubby openings, to meet both the early season courtship and singing requirements as well as the later season foraging requirements.

Provide a Safe Environment When Feeding Birds

Now that winter is here, many Connecticut residents are actively feeding and watching birds in their yards. Feeding birds can be as easy as putting up a window feeder filled with sunflower seeds to maintaining several styles of feeders and offering a variety of food types so as to attract a wide diversity of birds. However, there is more to bird feeding than just putting up a feeder and supplying food. It also is important to provide a safe feeding environment for the birds that you invite to your feeders.

Keep Feeders Clean

When selecting a feeder, keep in mind that it should be easy to refill and clean. Feeders and feeding areas should be cleaned often throughout the cold months. A poorly maintained feeder can spread diseases among birds. To prevent the spread of disease, feeders should be cleaned about once every two weeks by scrubbing in hot, soapy water, and then sanitized by being dipped into a one part bleach, nine parts water solution. Let the feeder dry thoroughly before refilling. It also is important to shovel or rake up seeds hulls that fall on the ground beneath feeders on a regular basis. This material should be disposed of properly (e.g., bagged for garbage disposal).

The use of weatherproof feeders that protect the seed from getting wet is suggested. Use only clean, dry bird seed and discard seed that becomes moldy. Keeping seed in a waterproof container helps prevent mold from spoiling the seed. In wet weather, put out only enough seeds that can be consumed in several hours.

If you have a bird bath, be sure to flush the water every day.

While these measures won't entirely solve the problem of bird diseases, they can help to slow down their spread.

Bird Diseases

Even if you are diligent about keeping your feeders and feeding areas clean, you should always be on the lookout for sick birds. If you observe sick birds, thoroughly clean your feeders and leave them down for at least a week.

There are a few common diseases, with varying symptoms, that may be affecting birds at your feeders:

- **Aspergillosis:** A potentially fatal bird infection, aspergillosis is caused by a fungus that grows in wet bird seed. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, emaciation, and increased thirst.

- **Salmonellosis:** The spread of salmonellosis has been linked to bird feeders, causing widespread deaths in the Northeast. Symptoms are not always noticeable and some infected birds may not show any signs of sickness, but can spread the infection to other birds. Salmonellosis is transmitted through fecal contamination of food and water by sick birds.

- **House Finch Eye Disease:** This disease was first documented in 1994. Infected birds have red, swollen, runny, or crusty eyes. In extreme cases, the eyes may be swollen shut. Some infected birds may recover, but many die from starvation, exposure, or predation. The disease mainly affects house finches, although American goldfinches, evening grosbeaks, and purple finches also have been affected.

- **Avian Pox:** This virus can be spread by direct contact with infected birds or contaminated surfaces (like feeders), and by ingesting contaminated food or water. Infected birds usually have wart-like growths on the featherless parts of the body,

such as around the eye, beak, and on the legs and feet. Another form of avian pox, which is not as common, causes plaques to develop on the mucous membrane of the mouth, throat, trachea, and lungs. Infected birds have difficulty breathing and feeding.

Predators at Bird Feeders

Many feeder watchers are dismayed when they observe one of their visiting birds being preyed upon by free-roaming cats or raptors. Predation by cats is not a natural situation and should not be tolerated. The best solution is to keep house cats indoors and let them watch birds through the windows. If neighborhood cats are hanging around your feeders, try to talk to your neighbors about their free-roaming cats and explain why cats should be kept indoors.

Predation by hawks, on the other hand, is part of the natural predator-prey relationship. Plus, observing a Cooper's or sharp-shinned hawk flying over your feeders may be a big enough thrill to overshadow the realities of predation. However, it is important to provide thick cover (shrubs, conifers, brush piles) near the feeders for protection. If a hawk becomes a regular visitor to your feeding area and scares feeder birds away, take down the feeders for a few days, and hopefully the hawk will move on.

Prevent Window Strikes

It has been estimated that millions of birds are killed each year from striking windows on buildings and homes. Unfortunately, window strikes are a common cause of death associated with feeders. Studies have shown that one out of every two strikes results in death. Birds involved in collisions may die instantly, be injured and die eventually from their injuries, or be taken by a predator as they recover. If you feed birds, you should make a commitment to reduce the chance for window strikes as much as possible.

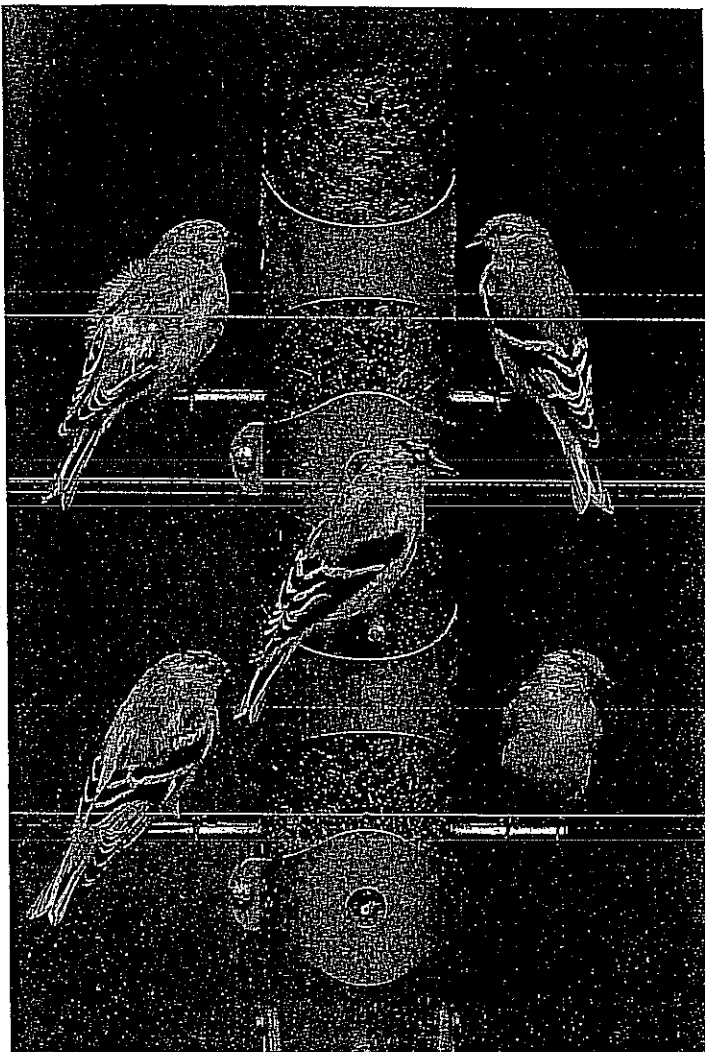
Research has shown that bird feeders placed within three feet of windows reduces or eliminates the number of fatalities from window strikes. Birds leaving feeders placed close to windows are not able to gain enough momentum to cause serious injury if they hit a window. Placing feeders at least 30 feet away from windows can be helpful in reducing collisions as well.

It also is important to break up reflections in windows or reduce their transparency. Several options are available and you may have to experiment to see which ones work best:

- Decals of any shape and size can be helpful. These can include falcon silhouettes or spider web designs. Several decals should be placed on the window to break up the appearance of the window. The use of UV reflective static cling decals is becoming more popular. These special decals are placed on the outside of windows and, although transparent to humans, reflect a solid blue (ultraviolet) image to birds. A good number of these small UV static cling decals need to be placed on larger windows. These decals are available commercially through the internet or at bird feeding supply stores. Although not 100% effective, the decals seem to make a difference in reducing bird strikes at windows.

- Another option is to use physical barriers at windows near feeders, such as commercial window screens, awnings, garden netting, or insect screening.

- Hanging several ribbons or streamers, spaced apart, in front of windows has had some success. The ribbons break up



American goldfinches tend to concentrate at thistle feeders, increasing the possibility of disease transmission.

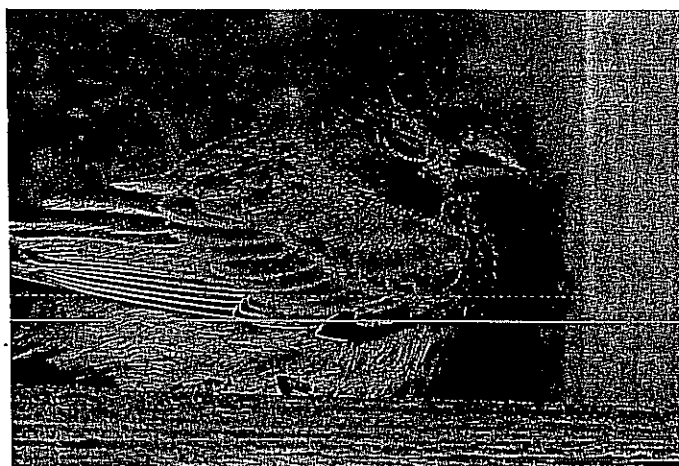
the reflection and movement in the wind may also be a deterrent.

- You can use blue painter's tape or a yellow highlighter marker to make a grid on the outside of windows. The highlighter is less visible to humans, but appears to keep birds from striking windows. The painters tape works well, also, but will definitely be a source of questions to anyone who sees your windows.

In some cases, when a bird strikes a window, it is probably just stunned and will eventually fly away when it recovers. In this situation, you should carefully pick up the bird, with gloved hands, and place it in a safe area away from cats and other predators. It should fly away shortly. If it does not fly away and it appears to be more seriously injured, you should seek the assistance of an authorized wildlife rehabilitator.

Dealing with Sick or Injured Birds

No matter how hard you try to keep your feeders and feeding area safe, you will probably find sick and/or injured birds. What do you do in such a situation? First of all, you need to remember that it is illegal for any person, other than a state-authorized wildlife rehabilitator, to care for wildlife. If you think a bird (or any other animal) needs help, you should contact a wildlife rehabilitator that is authorized to care for sick, injured,



P. J. FUSCO (2)

This house finch displays symptoms of finch eye disease – red, crusty, swollen eyes.

or orphaned animals with the intent of returning them back to the wild. The Wildlife Division maintains a list of rehabilitators on the DEP website (www.ct.gov/dep/wildlife). Most birds are protected by federal and state laws and these volunteers have the necessary permits for handling protected birds.

The Mount Vernon Songbird Sanctuary, a non-profit organization based in Southington, is an authorized rehabilitator that specializes in caring for small migratory songbirds. The sanctuary offers some excellent advice on its website (www.mvssanctuary.org) about what to do if you find a sick or injured bird. In the case of a bird exhibiting disease symptoms, you should make every effort to catch it. A sick bird is usually found on the ground, in the same position for long periods of time, quite often near a bird feeder or bird bath.

In the case of injured songbirds, you should look for broken wings, broken legs, wounds, head trauma, or spinal trauma. Observe both wings. Are they positioned evenly, or is one wing drooping lower than the other? Is the bird standing on both legs or is one leg held up because the bird cannot bear weight on it? Is a leg dangling uselessly? These symptoms may indicate a break. Missing or matted areas of feathers are signs of a wound, the result of being caught by a cat or other predator. Cat bites can be fatal if not treated with antibiotics. (The Sanctuary recommends that any bird that has been handled by a cat be rescued.) Head and spinal trauma can be caused by colliding with a window or being hit by a car, resulting in a bird being found on the ground stunned and unable to fly.

In these situations, use gloves to gently place the bird in a ventilated box with a towel, keeping it warm and away from people and pets. Nothing should be put in the bird's mouth or container. An authorized rehabilitator should be contacted immediately so that the bird can be brought to them for care.

For More Information

There is a wealth of information available about bird feeding and safety at bird feeders. The following websites were used as reference and you may also consult them for more detailed information:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology: www.birds.cornell.edu
 Project FeederWatch: www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/
 National Bird Feeding Society: www.birdfeeding.org
 American Bird Conservancy: www.abcbirds.org

The Little Snowbird

Article and photography by Paul Fusco, Wildlife Outreach Program

Every fall in Connecticut, there is a little gray bird that suddenly becomes very common all across our state. Woodlands and forest edges in parks and backyards are sometimes inundated with them. They are familiar favorites among many backyard birders, while others dread the sight of them. The little birds are dark-eyed juncos, sometimes referred to as "snowbirds." Those that dread the "snowbirds" do so because the juncos are harbingers of the cold and snowy days of fall and winter that are soon to come. They get the name "snowbird" from their plumage coloring of "gray skies above, and snow below."

Description

Juncos are small sparrows that are distinctly marked with drab shades of gray, brown, and white. They have a pink bill, plain gray head and breast, white belly, and white outer tail feathers. Females and immature birds have duller plumage than males.

The typical junco song is a cheery, musical trill, "tillitillitili." Simple and slow, the trill may vary up or down in pitch, and a series of multiple pitches may be joined together to form one continuous song. Listen in late winter for the junco song, as it is most frequently sung before pair formation and breeding.

There are five subspecies of dark-



This adult male slate-colored junco shows the striking dark gray upper plumage set against a white belly and pink bill.

eyed junco – the slate-colored, Oregon, pink-sided, white-winged, and gray-headed races. All are basically similar in appearance. One, the white-winged, has a restricted range, breeding only in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Range

Of the five subspecies, only slate-colored juncos are normally found in the eastern United States. They are very

common and widespread in open wooded habitats.

Slate-colored juncos breed in cool coniferous and mixed woodlands, along a broad swath of northern North America from Alaska, across Canada to New England, and south along

the Appalachian highlands. It is estimated that two-thirds of the junco population breeds in the broad band of boreal forest that extends from Newfoundland across Canada and Alaska, to the Bering Sea. In winter, juncos move south, ranging from southern Canada, to every state in the United States, but are absent from extreme southern Florida, southern Texas, and the desert southwest.

Slate-colored juncos are uncommon breeders in Connecticut. Breeding occurs in mature conifer forest habitat in northwestern and, to a lesser extent, in northeastern parts of the state. Juncos tend to favor areas with little undergrowth and somewhat of a rocky or sloped surface.

Nests are built on the ground, often in a depression and hidden under vegetation or against a log, rock, or upturned tree root. The cup-shaped nest is made of grass, moss, rootlets, and little twigs, with a lining of fine grass, feathers, and hairs. Young birds have well-developed legs and feet. This allows them to run before they can fly in order to escape from nest predators. Slate-colored juncos typically raise two broods per year.

Behavior

Juncos prefer to forage on the ground,



Female juncos are duller than males and have brownish tones in their upper plumage.

where they scratch the surface for seeds. They often can be seen using a "double-scratch" method where they hop forward, and then kick the ground backwards with both feet to expose food. In summer, they also will consume insects, including caterpillars, beetles, and ants. Ragweed, chickweed, and crabgrass are among a long list of grass and weed seeds that juncos eat.

Winter flocks often consist of five to 40 individuals. Social structure within the flock establishes a pecking order in which dominant birds (usually adult males) attempt to maintain a small foraging territory. Rivals are warned away by the prominent display of the white outer tail feathers. If displays don't settle a dispute, a fight may ensue in which two birds will kick and claw at each other. Sometimes the combatants will face off while rising up into the air.

Males juncos generally spend the winter farther north than the females and immature birds. By enduring harsher winter conditions, mature males will gain the benefit of being closer to the best breeding territories in spring. The most favorable territories will be claimed by the birds that get back to the breeding grounds the fastest.

In winter, flocks feeding on the ground may be sent diving for cover at the sight of a sharp-shinned hawk coursing toward them. In such situations, juncos will give a sharp call note and flash their white tail feathers to signal other members of the flock to the danger.

Members of a flock regularly sound a "tsip" call, used to keep in contact with one another while the flock forages within their regular feeding area. At night, flocks will roost together, frequently in a conifer that affords them shelter from cold and protection from predators.

Conservation

Slate-colored juncos are widespread and abundant. They have adapted well to human development, and have taken advantage of the proliferation of backyard



This slate-colored junco exhibits an uncommon variation of white wingbars that may be noteworthy but not prominent.

bird feeders all across the country. The best seed to offer juncos at feeders is a combination of black oil sunflower, white millet, and nyjer thistle. Because juncos prefer to feed on the ground, it is best to spread some seed on the ground to accommodate them. Ground seed also can be provided by allowing spillage from a pole mounted feeder.

Thick cover should be near any food source. By placing seed near cover, juncos will have a route to escape from hawks and other predators. A distance of six to 12 feet between food and cover works well to give the birds enough space to become aware of any threats and to quickly escape.

Despite having an abundant population and a wide range, dark-eyed juncos have declined at a rate of two percent per year according to breeding bird surveys during the 1980s and 1990s. The species is heavily dependent on the boreal forest zone of North America. This huge region is still largely intact, but it is facing increasing pressures from industrial development and logging interests. Millions of acres of boreal forest are clearcut each year, primarily for paper products.

Not only is the boreal forest zone an important breeding habitat for dark-eyed juncos and many other birds, but it also is a globally important carbon storage

zone, one of the world's best natural defenses against increased global warming. Carbon storage is a natural process where plants absorb carbon from the atmosphere, thus helping to reduce the rate of global warming. The rich mosaic of forests, lakes, wetlands, peat, and tundra in the boreal zone hold a large percentage of the planet's carbon. The beneficiaries of responsible and sustainable forest management and large scale protections of the boreal forest would not only include the little slate-colored junco, but likely the planet itself.

There Are Many Races of Dark-eyed Junco

In Connecticut, the slate-colored race of dark-eyed junco is the only regularly-occurring junco to be found. In other parts of the United States, there are four other subspecies of dark-eyed junco, including gray-headed, Oregon, pink-sided, and white-winged juncos, all of which have smaller breeding ranges than the slate-colored.

Gray-headed juncos breed in the southern Rocky Mountains from Nevada to Colorado, and northern Arizona and New Mexico.

Oregon juncos breed from California north to British Columbia, and east to parts of Idaho and Montana.

Pink-sided juncos breed in the central Rockies from Montana to Arizona.

White-winged juncos have the most limited breeding range, and are found only in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

Unfavorable Weather Took Its Toll on Nesting Plovers & Terns

Written by Orla Molloy, Wildlife Division Resource Assistant

The 2009 piping plover nesting season began with high aspirations of achieving greater numbers than that of last year's 102 chicks. Human disturbance, predation, and Mother Nature, however, had different plans for the Connecticut coastline.

Sandy beaches are imperative for the survival of the state and federally-threatened piping plover. This shorebird prefers to make its nest in high, dry sections of beach that contain little to no vegetation and are away from the water. Piping plovers return to Connecticut from their wintering grounds in late March and early April to begin nesting.

At this time, DEP staff, along with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

staff and volunteers, scout shoreline beaches in search of these birds. In these early months, male plovers make their territories and defend them from intruders by hunching their backs and running after trespassers. When a mating pair is formed, the male makes several depressions (scrapes) in the sand. The female then evaluates the scrapes to find the one that is most desirable for laying eggs. She also may line the nest with broken shells to help camouflage it.

Once a good nesting site is established, the courting rituals begin. The pursuit consists of loud vocalizations, with the males puffing their chests and performing what many call a "can can" dance. Females will lay one egg every other day until there are four eggs. However, if the first nest fails, renest attempts may only have two to three eggs. Both male and female plovers participate in the incubation of the eggs.

Protecting Nesting Areas

Once pairs designate a breeding location, the Division uses string fencing as a buffer to discourage people from disturbing the birds. Bright yellow signs stating

"Keep Away" and "No Dogs Allowed on Beach" also are posted. When nests are found with a total of four eggs (in some cases three eggs), a wire fenced enclosure is put around the nest and mesh netting is placed over the top. The enclosure helps prevent predation from foxes, dogs, skunks, raccoons, cats, and avian predators such as gulls and herons. However, it does not inhibit the breeding pair from entering or exiting. The wire enclosures have proven to be a valuable tool in providing higher hatching success where predators and human disturbance is high. The beaches, on average, are assessed twice a week for nesting activity.

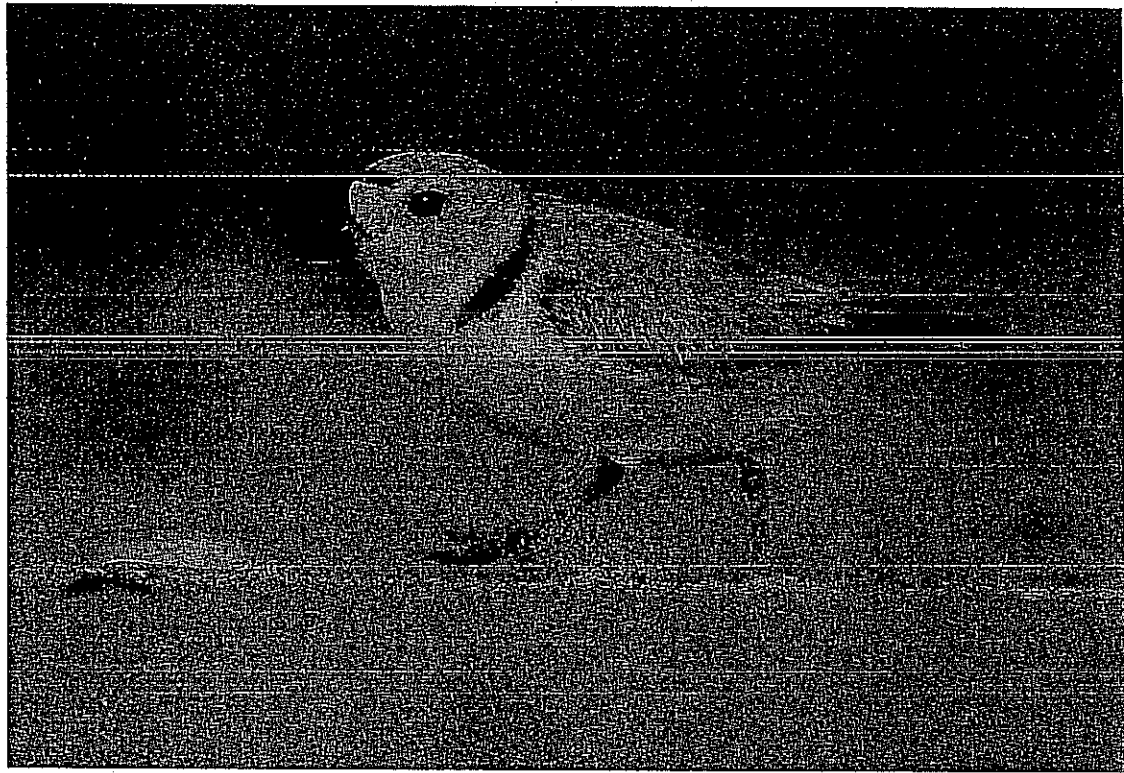
Disturbance, Predation, and Weather Hamper Success

Every summer, piping plovers and state-threatened least terns struggle to maintain their nesting sites, putting great effort into establishing nests and laying eggs. Although human disturbance and predation are the usual culprits in nest failures, Mother Nature threw in its own twist this season. The unseasonable weather in June took a toll on plover and

tern numbers. Twenty-six of the 30 days in June had continuous rainfall. Nesting plover and tern pairs were forced to incubate eggs or brood young in the unseasonable weather with mixed results. Although small, piping plovers are relentless when caring for eggs and broods. They will withstand the elements to ensure hatching success. Unfortunately, the constant rainfall and high tides washed out many nests.

Piping Plovers

The 44 pairs of piping plovers that nested along the Connecticut coastline this past summer laid 202 eggs, but only fledged 74 chicks, down 25% from 2008 when 102 chicks fledged. Some nest sites had unique problems, such as at Long Beach in Stratford where thieves made it difficult to keep the barriers up as they pilfered the wooden stakes used to cordon off the nesting areas. Wooden stakes are often pulled up and used as firewood on beaches. The constant theft of these stakes interfered with the security of Long Beach's nesting pairs. The number of plover fledglings from Long Beach fell



The 44 pairs of piping plovers that nested along the Connecticut coastline this past summer laid 202 eggs, but only fledged 74 chicks, down 25% from 2008 when 102 chicks fledged.

from 14 in 2008 to 10 in the 2009 season.

Beaches from Groton to Westport were used for nesting. They included Long Beach in Stratford; Milford Point, Cedar Beach, Laurel Beach, and East Broadway Beach (all in Milford); Sandy Point (West Haven); Hammonasset Beach State Park (Madison); Griswold Point (Old Lyme), Harkness State Park (Waterford); and Bluff Point Coastal Reserve (Groton). For the first time since DEP conservation efforts began, a pair was reported nesting at Sasco Hill Beach in Fairfield.

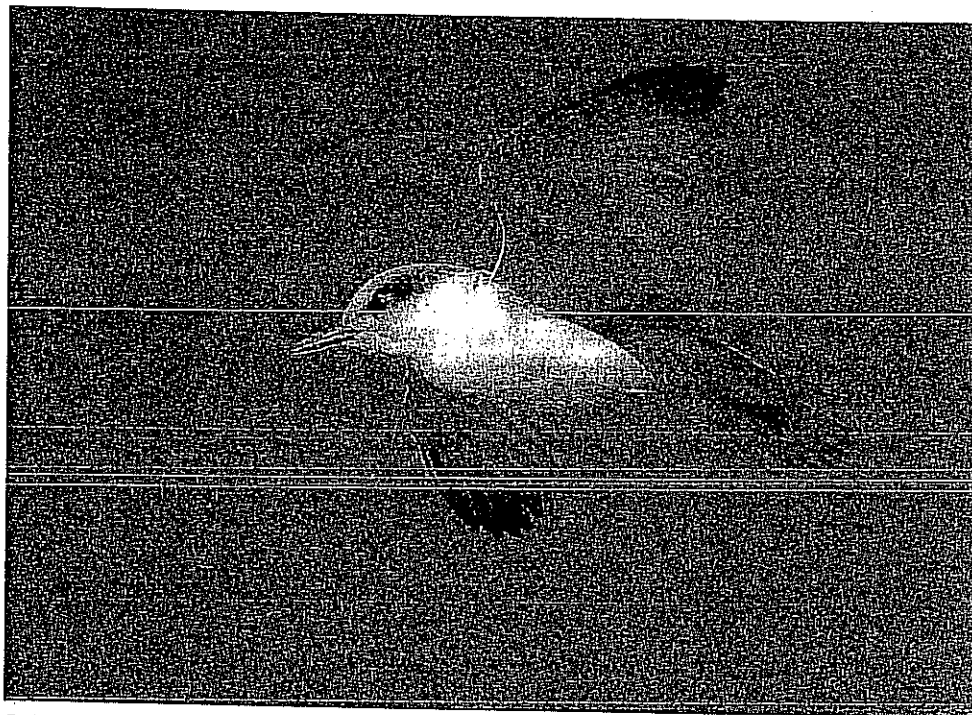
Piping plovers have many predators, including foxes, rats, dogs, raccoons, skunks, night herons, and gulls. A pair at Laurel Beach in Milford made three efforts to successfully nest. The first nest was not able to be protected by an exclosure before it was lost to predation. An exclosure was erected for the second nesting attempt; however, a predator (most likely a skunk) dug around and underneath the exclosure and took the plover eggs. Fortunately, these losses occurred early enough in the season that the pair was able to reneest a third time and eventually fledge two chicks.

Nesting success for plovers at Harkness State Park decreased by 50% from last year. Only nine fledglings were recorded by Denise Bouchard, a DEP Parks patrolman.

Multiple plover pairs from across the state exhibited a change in their normal behavior when they began nesting in dunes and among beach vegetation. Traditionally, plovers prefer open, sandy areas because they provide better viewing for predators. Why the change? Is it because of the continuous loss of their beach nesting habitat? Could it be that human disturbance is less intrusive farther inland? Are these birds being forced to adapt to ever-changing breeding grounds? These are questions that will hopefully be answered with the continued monitoring of this species.

Terns Abandon Sandy Point

For the past 20 years, Sandy Point has been the site of the largest least tern colony in the state. It also plays a vital role for piping plovers. This year, Sandy Point was more of a ghost town than a vibrant and flourishing colony. The area was submersed with high water levels that flooded into the colony, causing



Only 11 least terns fledged this year from Connecticut beaches, a very dismal number. Of the eight sites in the state where least terns have routinely nested, chicks only fledged from two sites – Griswold Point and Hammonasset Beach State Park.

undesirable breeding grounds for terns, black skimmers, oystercatchers, and plovers alike. The vigorous tern colony that once existed there had been completely eliminated. The flooding also had a negative effect on piping plovers. Normally, plovers need distance (approximately 30 feet) between their nests to ensure success. Plovers that would normally nest on the lagoon side of the point were forced to compete with each other for limited habitat on the ocean side. Adult plovers were actually seen attacking other adults over territory. To make matters worse, a brush fire was started at Sandy Point, right next to a nesting pair. This disturbance caused the adult to abandon its nest and eggs. These mishaps and habitat changes caused plover numbers to plummet at this site to almost one-half of last year's results (12 fledglings in 2009 compared to 20 fledglings in 2008). These changes also may be the reason why least terns didn't nest at Sandy Point at all. In 2008, 80 pairs of least terns nested at Sandy Point.

Least Terns

In 2009, 98 pairs of least terns nested on Connecticut beaches, fledging only 11 chicks. Of the eight sites in the state where least terns have routinely nested, chicks only fledged from two sites – Griswold Point and Hammonasset Beach State Park. These numbers are down

considerably from just one year ago. In 2008, 252 pairs of least terns produced 76 fledglings. During one visit to Long Beach in Stratford, approximately 60-70 least terns were counted. When the site was monitored a few days later, the birds were gone and the nests were destroyed. The nests had washed away when the high tides reached abnormally elevated levels.

Thanks Extended

Efforts to protect and monitor piping plover and least tern nesting areas would not be possible without the assistance provided by volunteers, interns, and private landowners. The Division would like to thank all the private landowners who consented to having exclosures on their properties. Their cooperation allowed for the success of multiple nests. Thanks are also extended to Vanessa Lester, a University of Massachusetts student and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service intern, and Denise Bouchard and Joel Stocker whose assistance was invaluable. The Division also would like to recognize the Master Wildlife Conservationists and other volunteers who worked hard and spent countless hours monitoring these shorebirds, purely because of their passion for wildlife and conservation.

Funding for the Piping Plover Recovery Project is provided by Section 6 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

Nesting Terns Holding Strong at Falkner Island

Since the 1960s, Falkner Island, a small, crescent-shaped piece of land just off the coast of Guilford, has been the site of the largest common tern and roseate tern colonies in Connecticut. This 4.5-acre island was once owned by the U.S. Coast Guard until it became part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Division of Refuges in 1985. It is now considered part of the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.

The roseate tern colony on the island is part of a northeastern regional population that nests at various sites along the coastlines of Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York. This breeding population was declared endangered by the USFWS in 1987. With the passage of Connecticut's Endangered Species Act in 1992, the roseate tern also was listed as state endangered. The common tern is considered a Connecticut species of special concern. Because of the endangered status of roseate terns, their productivity is continuously monitored at Falkner Island, as well as at other breeding sites in Massachusetts and New York.

The 2009 roseate and common tern nesting season was considered successful. The daily presence of the biological team at Falkner Island and constant monitoring of the tern colony, as well as proactive predator control, all contributed to the colony's reproductive success.

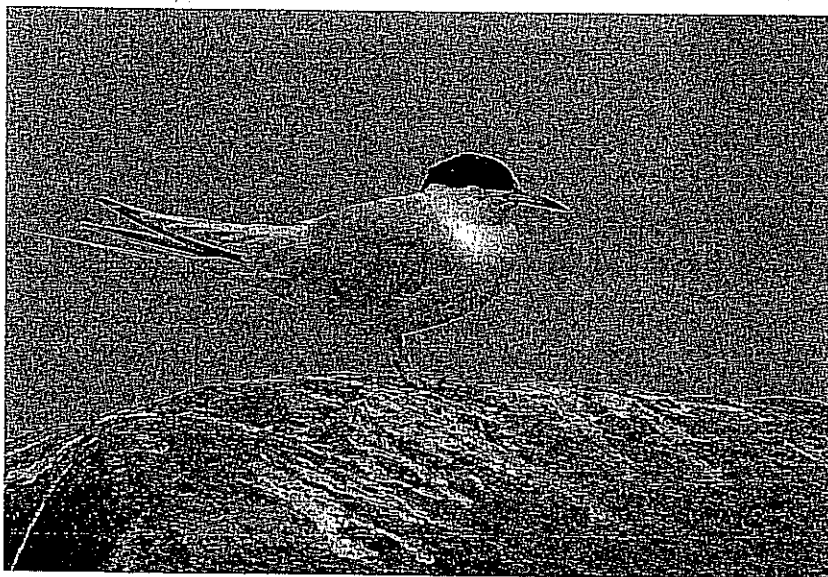
This year's annual census demonstrated that the number of common terns nesting on the island had increased compared to last season. However, the overall fledge rate remained identical to that of the previous year. During the 2009, 2,311 nests were recorded. This is an increase of 249 nests in comparison to the 2008 census results.

There also was an increase in the number of roseate tern nests, as well as in the number of roseate chicks that fledged. A total of 38 roseate tern chicks are presumed to have fledged. This number is much higher than the 23 recorded roseate tern fledglings of 2008 and is the highest number documented for the past three years. The increased nest success may be due to higher prey concentrations, predator control efforts, and the lack of observed predation on roseate nests.



The crowning glory of Falkner Island is the white octagonal lighthouse that has four-and-a-half foot thick base walls and a red Victorian dome that rises 94 feet above sea level. Built in 1802, it is the second oldest lighthouse in Connecticut and it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(Left) Falkner Island has the largest breeding roseate tern colony in Connecticut. Roseate terns are listed as federal and state endangered species.



Due to the efforts of the biological team based at Falkner Island, 186 roseate and common terns were fitted with leg bands. Banding allows for a more efficient method of monitoring the movements and reproductive behaviors of the common and roseate tern populations on the island.

Thank you to Richard Potvin of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for providing the tern nesting season results for 2009.

Mosquito Testing Revealed EEE in Connecticut in 2009

Written by Roger Wolfe, Mosquito Management Program

When this year began, we could have predicted that it would be an active mosquito season, but we had no idea what was in store. As you may recall, Connecticut had a very wet, mild spring. As a result, there was a bumper-crop of spring mosquitoes. "Spring, floodwater mosquitoes" hatch from eggs that were laid the previous fall. After overwintering, the eggs are then flooded as snow melts and water tables rise in spring. As the days grow longer and the water warms up, these eggs hatch into larvae and eventually emerge as adult mosquitoes, usually just in time for Memorial Day weekend.

To add to the already high population of spring mosquitoes, red maple/white cedar swamps stayed wet throughout the summer. This habitat is home to a mosquito known as *Culiseta melanura*. *Culiseta* spp. primarily feed on birds. However, recently, through blood meal analysis at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES), this mosquito has been found to also feed on mammals, including humans. In addition, *C. melanura* is known to be the driving force for amplifying eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in the wild bird population. This year, *Culiseta* populations were high and stayed high well into fall.

As part of Connecticut's Mosquito Management Program, the CAES began trapping and testing mosquitoes in early June for EEE, West Nile virus (WNV), and other mosquito-borne diseases. Mosquito traps were set at 91 sites throughout the state and attended by staff every 10 days on a regular rotation. Two trap types are used at all trapping stations: 1) a CO₂-baited CDC Light Trap, designed to trap host-seeking adult female mosquitoes (all species); and 2) a Gravid Mosquito Trap, designed to trap previously blood-fed adult female mosquitoes (principally *Culex* spp.).

By mid-October, the CAES had trapped, counted, and processed over 289,243 mosquitoes – kudos to the folks behind the microscopes! From this collection, 33 WNV-positive pools of mosquitoes were isolated. There also were 118 EEE isolations which encompassed the eastern half of the state and, by late summer, parts of Fairfield County as well (check the Mosquito Management Program website at www.ct.gov/mosquito for final numbers). This was a remarkably

high amount of EEE activity and, with several weeks of warm weather still anticipated, there was need to be concerned for the public's health.

In mid-September, Governor M. Jodi Rell convened a meeting in Hartford with members of the Mosquito Management working group, the Commissioners of Environmental Protection, Public Health, and Agriculture, the Director of the CAES, and the state Director of Homeland Security. This group had a conference call with 55 local health officials to update them on the situation, relay the risk involved, and inform them of plans to get through the season, hopefully without any human infection of EEE. Connecticut did not have a confirmed human case of EEE, although horse and non-native bird deaths were reported.

The CAES increased its trapping efforts, press releases were announced through various media, and parks and public areas were posted to warn visitors to avoid exposure to mosquitoes and use repellents, especially at dusk when mosquitoes would be most active. Some towns opted to spray (adulticide) for mosquitoes on their public lands, but the DEP did not. Because the virus was so widespread, it was logistically unfeasible at the state level to spray, short of an aerial application which was not recommended at the time.

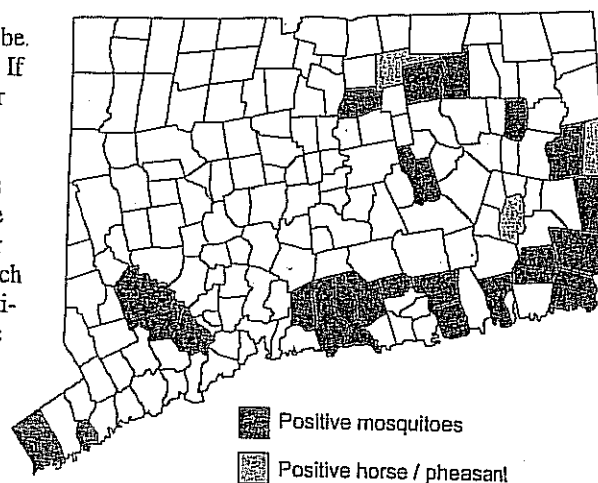
West Nile virus and EEE are bird viruses that are naturally present and amplified in the wild bird population. Wild birds have a natural immunity to these viruses and normally aren't affected. On the other hand, non-native or exotic birds (e.g., emus, ostriches, pheasants) do not have these built-in immunities and can be very susceptible to these diseases. If these penned birds become sick or die (especially in large numbers), they can act as effective sentinels to alert health officials that a virus is present in the area. This was the case in September when a number of dead pheasants from the Norwich area were analyzed at the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at the University of Connecticut and confirmed to have EEE. Soon after, the virus was isolated from a flock of pheasants in Ellington. With the

help of Wildlife Division staff, additional announcements were sent out to pheasant breeders, game clubs that stock birds, hunters, and other outdoorsmen to be on the lookout for sick birds and to take precautions against mosquito bites when in the field.

In early October, diagnostic results confirmed EEE in a horse that died in Plainfield a few weeks earlier. Although unfortunate, it was not surprising considering the amount of virus activity that was present in the area for several weeks prior. Furthermore, this high level of EEE activity was not just confined to Connecticut. There were confirmed horse cases in New Jersey, Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts. A three-year-old girl from New Hampshire became ill from EEE and a 70-year-old man from upstate New York died in September from EEE after being bitten by an infected mosquito. Although the risk of contracting EEE from an infected mosquito is very low, the mortality rate is over 50% in humans and over 90% in horses. In short, when EEE is prevalent, it should not be taken lightly. You should heed all precautions being given by health officials.

The mosquito season cannot be predicted from year to year. However, to help prevent human health outbreaks when these arboviruses emerge, we can learn from the past, look for long-term trends, be better prepared, and use new technology for surveillance and control as it becomes available.

2009 Eastern Equine Encephalitis Activity



2009 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Yielded 80 Eagles

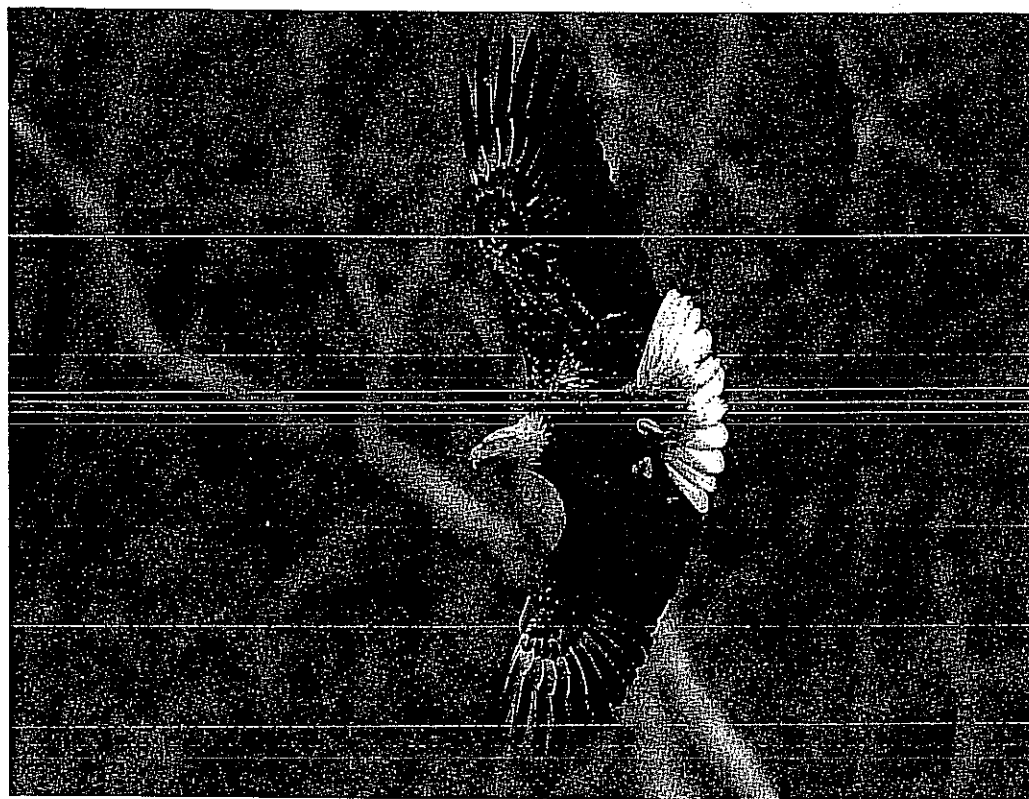
The weather was clear and cold but not cold enough to stop 227 volunteers from observing 98 survey areas during the 2009 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, which took place on January 9-10. Survey numbers collected from the volunteers revealed that 80 bald eagles were counted – 48 adult and 32 immatures. Eagles were observed at 20 of the survey locations.

Thanks are extended to all of the volunteers for their time and efforts to survey the eagles.

Volunteers Needed for the 2010 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

The Wildlife Division is looking for volunteers to assist with the 2010 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey in Connecticut. The 2010 survey period target date is Saturday January 9, from 7:00 -11:00 AM.

Bald eagles migrate south from the northern states during winter to areas of open water where they are able to catch fish, their main food item. Cold weather conditions, which keep most waterways to the north covered with ice, mean that higher numbers of eagles will be counted in Connecticut.



Volunteers are needed for the 2010 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey, which will be conducted in early January. A total of 80 eagles were counted during the 2009 survey.

Each year since 1979, volunteers from private conservation organizations, the DEP, and the general public have helped conduct the Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey by recording all eagles seen at areas traditionally used by the birds and at areas of suitable wintering habitat.

The Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey is not a complete census of the entire wintering population in Connecticut, but an index of the species' use of the state, which can be compared from year to year. The survey is conducted nationwide during a target time period. The purpose of this survey is to monitor the status of bald eagle wintering populations in the contiguous United States by estimating national and regional count trends, overall and by age class.

If you would like to participate in the 2010 survey, please contact Wildlife Division biologist Julie Victoria by email only (julie.victoria@ct.gov) and provide your name and mailing address.

Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey Results 1979-2009

	Immature	Adult	Unknown	Total
1979	—	—	—	20
1980	—	—	—	41
1981	—	—	—	26
1982	18	13	0	31
1983	16	17	0	35
1984	17	22	0	39
1985	14	24	0	38
1986	22	18	0	40
1987	15	18	0	33
1988	23	28	1	52
1989	30	58	0	88
1990	53	23	0	76
1991	31	27	0	58
1992	34	27	1	62
1993	31	29	1	61
1994	45	29	0	75
1995	40	26	0	66
1996	83	45	0	128
1997	64	50	0	114
1998	20	29	0	49
1999	27	33	0	60
2000	37	35	0	72
2001	43	34	0	77
2002	20	33	1	54
2003	45	31	1	77
2004	41	50	1	92
2005	25	20	1	46
2006	19	44	3	66
2007	20	42	0	62
2008	32	49	0	81
2009	32	48	0	80

2009 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey January 9-10, 2009

Location	Adults	Immatures
Connecticut River	16	10
Housatonic River	6	9
Lake Gallard	1	0
Lake Salongall	1	1
Candlewood Lake	7	5
Farmington River	0	1
Quinnipiac River	2	0
Pomperaug River	1	0
Barkhamsted Reservoir	1	0
Groton Reservoir	2	0
Congamond Lakes	2	0
Knowlton Pond	0	1
Quinebaug River	1	0
Alexander's Lake	1	2
Morris Reservoir	1	0
Thames River	2	2
Aspetuck Reservoir	1	0
Naugatuck River	0	1
Burlington Hatchery	2	0
Easton Reservoir	1	0
Total	48	32

Statewide Total = 80 Bald Eagles

*Old Saybrook to Massachusetts line

Tree-of-Heaven's Name May Be Endearing, But the Tree Is Not

Written by Peter Picone, Habitat Management Program

Tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is a non-native invasive tree that was imported to North America in the late 1700s from Asia. It was imported with good intentions because of its use as an ornamental and in the silkworm industry. However, what was not known about the species was its propensity to reproduce and displace native plants as it escaped into the forests and fields of New England and other areas.

Tree-of-heaven is able to grow well in most temperate climates throughout the world. Because of its ability to grow quickly to a height of 70 feet or more and clone itself and disperse its prolific seeds, tree-of-heaven has become a vigorous, non-native invasive that competes for sunlight, space, and nutrients to the detriment of Connecticut's native plants. To make matters worse, the tree produces allelopathic chemicals which are concentrated in the roots and young sprouts. These chemicals inhibit the survival of native plants in areas where tree-of-heaven is established. Tree-of-heaven is flourishing in North America, especially because there are no natural enemies (insects, pathogens, disease) in this region to keep it in check.

Identifying Tree-of-heaven

This deciduous tree has smooth stems with pale gray bark and twigs that are light chestnut brown, especially in the dormant season. It has large compound leaves that are alternate and have smaller leaflets. Tree-of-heaven is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Female trees can be identified by the winged fruits containing a single seed that are seen hanging from the branches in fall.

Elimination at State WMAs

Tree-of-heaven has been found growing, in increasing frequency, at state wildlife management areas (WMA). Two habitat management projects aimed at eliminating tree-of-heaven have been implemented at Housatonic River WMA in Kent and Simsbury WMA in Simsbury.

At Housatonic River WMA, a female patch of tree-of-heaven was invading a field and forest edge. The seeds were not only dispersing into the field, but also falling into the Housatonic River and being transported downstream. The river's

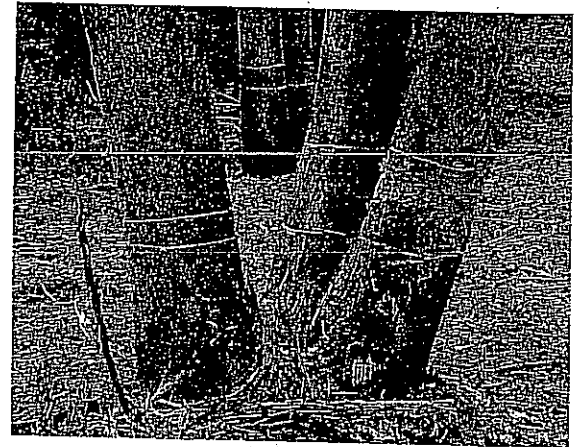


Tree-of-heaven overtops staghorn sumac at Simsbury Wildlife Management Area in Simsbury.

sandy shoreline is a prime area for tree-of-heaven seeds to sprout and take hold. To eliminate this invasive tree, small saplings were pulled up by hand while the larger stems (8 inches in diameter and smaller) were chopped up using a brontosaurus drum-chop mower. Trees that were too large for the brontosaurus mower were girdled using a chain saw and then the herbicide Glyphosate was applied to the grooves. Follow-up herbicide treatments to stump sprouts and runners were done for two growing seasons.

Several satellite populations of tree-of-heaven also were killed using girdling and herbicides on the 500-acre Housatonic WMA. Currently, at the area, no seeds are being produced and more than 98 % of the trees have been removed.

At Simsbury WMA, a one-acre patch of large trees adjacent to the Farmington River was managed using the same techniques. A smaller patch that was found shading out staghorn sumac along a field edge was managed using girdling and herbicide.



Tree-of-heaven has been girdled by a chain saw and hatchet and treated with a herbicide at the Housatonic River WMA in Kent.

Invasive non-native plants and animals are second only to habitat loss as the largest threat to biodiversity. A list of invasive non-native plants found in Connecticut is available on the University of Connecticut Plant Science Department's website (www.hort.uconn.edu/CIPWG/invplantsCT09commonname.pdf). This list was compiled by the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group.



Subscription Price to Increase in 2010 – Magazine to Go Full Color

As you are probably aware, budget constraints have been affecting state government, and the Wildlife Division has not been immune. In addition, printing and mailing costs have been steadily rising over the years for *Connecticut Wildlife*, yet we haven't raised the subscription price since 1995. Starting in 2010, the price will go up minimally to \$8 for one year, \$15 for two years, and \$20 for three years. However, even though the cost is increasing for subscribers, you will actually be getting more. *Connecticut Wildlife* magazine will now be printed in full color, with more photographs and improved layouts. We believe that the magazine is still a great bargain and it will continue to provide wildlife information that is pertinent to our state.

There is an opportunity for current subscribers to extend their subscriptions at the lower rate before the prices increase in 2010. Just fill out the coupon on the next page and send in your payment to have your subscription extended for up to three years. Renewal notices sent out in 2010 will reflect the new price.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about your subscription. You can call the Sessions Woods office (860-675-8130; Monday-Friday, 8:30-4:30) or email katherine.herz@ct.gov.

Nature Drawing Classes for Students & the Public

School groups and the general public have the opportunity to attend "Nature Drawing" classes at the Wildlife Division's Sessions Woods Conservation Center in Burlington. Artist Judy Bird will teach Nature Drawing to small groups (25-50 students), coupled with a wildlife-related presentation by the Division's Outreach Unit staff. There is no charge for this program as long as funding is available. If you are a teacher and would like to enhance your science and/or art curriculum with a guided program at Sessions Woods, please contact Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro (laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov or 860-675-8130).

A "Nature Walk and Drawing Workshop" will be held for the general public at Sessions Woods on Saturday, February 6, 2010, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. (Snow date is February 7). Pre-registration is required for this free program. (Call 860-675-8130, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM-4:30 PM.) Sessions Woods is located at 341 Milford Street (Route 69) in Burlington.

"Bears" Coming to a Library Near You

What is it about bears that attract a crowd? Ask Master Wildlife Conservationist Felicia Ortnier if she has the answer. Felicia has spent the past year traveling throughout the state presenting programs on black bears and transporting a tabletop display board about bear management from one Connecticut library to another. Over 30 libraries have hosted bear programs and the display board since the beginning of 2009.

The tabletop display board was purchased by the Friends of Sessions Woods. Wildlife Division Outreach Program staff designed the display. It features photos and results of bear research conducted by the Furbearer Program over the past several years. Libraries in Connecticut are able to show the display for two weeks. Demand from the various libraries throughout the state has been keeping Felicia busy. Interest in bears never seems to wane. The Division receives numerous requests for black bear presentations throughout the year. Having a skilled presenter and bear enthusiast in Felicia has proven to be very helpful in getting the Division's science-based information out to the public. The Division would like to extend its appreciation to Felicia for all her efforts with this initiative.

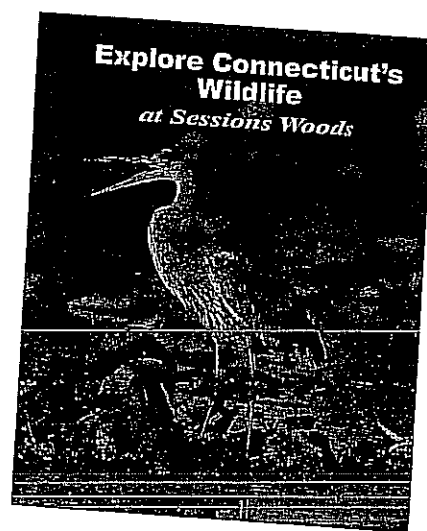
Laura Rogers-Castro, Outreach Program

Become a Master Wildlife Conservationist

The next Master Wildlife Conservationist Program (MWCP) training program for adults is slated to begin in late March 2010 and will continue into early May. This free program consists of 40 hours of classroom study on topics such as the history of wildlife conservation; ecological principles; population ecology; interpretation; wildlife management; nuisance wildlife; and wetland restoration. Most of the classes are held on weekdays at the Wildlife Division's Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center in Burlington.

Once candidates complete the classes and pass the final exam, the Division asks that they perform 40 hours of volunteer service during the next year and 20 hours each subsequent year.

If you think you have the time and commitment to assist the Division as a Master Wildlife Conservationist, contact Laura Rogers-Castro (860-675-8130; laura.rogers-castro@ct.gov) to obtain an application packet. Candidates will be selected by mid-January.



Two Special Gifts from Newman's Own

The Friends of Sessions Woods has been fortunate to receive two grants over the past two years from the Newman's Own Foundation. Each grant supports the efforts of the Wildlife Division's Outreach Program by providing funding for educational programs and publications. Newman's Own, Inc., was founded by the late actor and philanthropist Paul Newman. The company produces items such as salad dressings, popcorn, salsa, and pasta sauces. Newman's Own Foundation donates all net royalties and profits from the sale of these products, after taxes, for educational and charitable purposes. Paul Newman and the Foundation have given over \$280 million to thousands of charities worldwide since 1982. The Friends of Sessions Woods was invited to submit a grant proposal from a past Friends board member. Newman's Own Foundation only accepts grant proposals from invited applicants.

The first grant, received in 2008, was a \$5,000 gift to provide funding for printing a wildlife activity booklet for children called *Exploring Connecticut's Wildlife at Sessions Woods* (see the May/June 2009 issue of *Connecticut Wildlife*). To date, over 2,100 booklets have been provided to various schools, libraries, Scout groups, and Nature Centers throughout the state. The 2008 gift also included a "transportation fund" to be used by inner city schools to pay for bus transportation to Sessions Woods for a guided program. Three schools from the Hartford area have used the transportation funding for field trips to Sessions Woods.

The second grant, received earlier in 2009, is a \$7,500 gift to reprint the wildlife activity booklet; enhance the "transportation fund;" and provide funding for a series of "Nature Drawing" classes with Artist Judy Bird at Sessions Woods. The Friends of Sessions Woods and the Division are very grateful to the Newman's Own Foundation for providing these wonderful opportunities that enhance the educational offerings at Sessions Woods.

Laura Rogers-Castro, Outreach Program

Wildlife Calendar Reminders

Programs at the Sessions Woods Conservation Education Center

Programs are a cooperative venture between the Wildlife Division and the Friends of Sessions Woods. Please pre-register by calling 860-675-8130 (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 AM-4:30 PM). Programs are free unless noted. An adult must accompany children under 12 years old. No pets allowed! Sessions Woods is located at 341 Milford St. (Route 69) in Burlington.

- Dec. 30 **Children's Program: Wildlife Tracks & Signs**, starting at 10:00 AM. Learn about wildlife tracks indoors with Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro and then head outside for a short walk to look for animal signs. Children also will make a wildlife track to take home. An adult must accompany all children. Meet in the small classroom in the exhibit area at Sessions Woods.
- Jan. 20 **Bear Aware**, starting at 6:30 PM. Connecticut is home to several hundred black bears. What do we know about the state's black bear population? Where are most bears seen in Connecticut? What do you do if you see a bear? Join Wildlife Division biologist Paul Rego as he discusses the history of bears in our state, research activities, and current management practices.
- Feb. 6 **Nature Walk and Drawing Workshop**, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. Natural Resources Educator Laura Rogers-Castro will lead an interpretive walk focusing on Connecticut's wildlife and the conservation of wildlife habitat. Artist Judy Bird will teach a nature drawing class focusing on personal observation and expression of nature. Rain date is February 7.
- March 3 **Wildlife Tales**, starting at 6:30 PM. When the European settlers arrived in Connecticut, which mammals did they encounter? How have habitats changed since the first settlers arrived in the 1600s to the present? Are coyotes native to Connecticut? What is the wild turkey and fisher connection? Join Natural Resource Educator Laura Rogers-Castro for this indoor presentation to learn about some of the wildlife species found in Connecticut.

Hunting Season Dates

Sept. 15-Dec. 31 State Land Bowhunting Only Areas

Dec. 9-22 Deer muzzleloader season on state land.

Dec. 9-31 Deer muzzleloader season on private land.

Jan. 15-Feb. 10 Special late Canada goose season in the south zone only.

..... Consult the 2009 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide for specific season dates and details. The 2009-2010 Migratory Bird Hunting Guide contains information on duck, goose, woodcock, rail, and snipe seasons. Both guides are available at Wildlife Division offices, town halls, and on the DEP website (www.ct.gov/dep/hunting). The 2010 Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide will be available by mid-December.

Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area

The Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area, in Southbury, will be open to the public on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays, from December 26, 2009, through March 17, 2010, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM — strictly by advance reservation. All individuals and groups wishing to visit the site to view eagles must make a reservation for a particular date, as there will be a limited number of visitors allowed per open day.

Beginning on December 8, 2009, reservations can be made on Tuesdays through Fridays, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, by calling 1-800-368-8954.

Due to the new system that requires hunters to report their deer harvest via the DEP website or by telephone, a running tally of the 2009 archery deer harvest can be viewed at www.ct.gov/dep/hunting.

Coupon and prices
expire on 12/31/2009

Connecticut Wildlife

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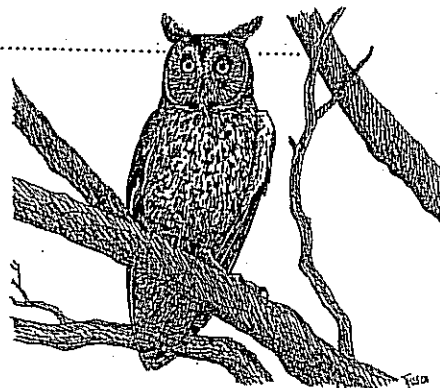
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A black and white photograph of a bird, possibly a sparrow or finch, perched on a branch. The bird has a dark head, a small beak, and a body covered in dark spots. It is facing left. The background is dark and textured, with some foliage visible in the upper right corner.

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